



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Israeli Truck Hits Palestinian Bus; 20 Wounded

JN2502092596 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
0900 GMT 25 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Israeli truck ran into a bus carrying Palestinian workers in al-Majdal [Ashqelon] a short while ago. Twenty workers were wounded. Five of them are in critical condition.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Spokesman Claims 2 Bombings in Israel

NC2602190396 *London MBC Television in Arabic*
1800 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mustafa al-Liddawi, spokesman for Hamas [The Islamic Resistance Movement] in Lebanon has asserted that Hamas carried out the two bombings in Jerusalem and Ashqelon to avenge the killing of Yahya 'Ayyash and Fathi al-Shaqaqi. He said:

[Begin al-Liddawi recording] The operations carried out yesterday are a natural, logical, and realistic response to all of Israel's savage practices against Palestinian people and repression of our people struggling in jails and in the self-rule areas. The operations are also a response to all Israel's actions against our people's struggles inside and outside of our homeland, beginning with Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the Islamic Jihad secretary general and brother struggler Yahya 'Ayyash, architect of the martyrdom operations. These operations are a natural and logical response to all Israeli practices against our people. The operations are also in response to rumors disseminated by the Palestinian Authority [PA] that an agreement exists between the PA and the Hamas military wing. The PA claimed that Hamas had agreed to stop armed actions in return for saving the lives of its strugglers. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs: Sources Name Possible Suspects in Bombings

TA2702133796 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 27 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian sources say that the two terrorists who carried out the attack on the Jerusalem bus and the one near Ashqelon may have come from the al-Fawwar refugee camp near Hebron. This is reported by our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem. The sources brought up the names of two camp residents who, apparently, are the terrorists. The two are Majdi Abu-Wardah and Ibrahim Farhanah. The two disappeared from their homes last weekend.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Activists Detained; U.S. Envoy Passes List

TA2702123796 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1100 27 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian security services have detained 30 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in Samaritan towns. They were arrested in Nablus, Janin, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that among the detainees are students at Nablus' al-Najah University.

A security official in the Gaza Strip said there are currently 90 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists detained, and these include terrorist leaders. General 'Abd-al-Raziq Mubaydah told REUTER that the Palestinian Authority has ordered the detention of everyone connected to the latest terrorist attacks.

Our correspondent adds that last night an American diplomat gave 'Arafat a list containing the names of 10 Hamas activists that Israel wants detained. One of them is the head of the military arm of Hamas in the Gaza Strip Muhammad Dif, who is responsible for planning the murder of Nahshon Wachsmann.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat—Israeli 'Fanatics' Provided Bombs

TA2702065696 *Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST*
in English 27 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky and Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] An unholy conspiracy of Israeli "fanatics," who are members of a shadowy group of ex-IDF [Israel Defense Forces] people called "OAS" [Organisation l'Armee Secrete], and Moslem extremists were behind Sunday's suicide bombings, Palestinian Authority [PA] President Yasir 'Arafat told foreign diplomats yesterday, according to diplomatic sources.

Informed sources said Israeli security officials gave their Palestinian counterparts the names of people suspected of being part of a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] infrastructure. It is believed they also gave their alleged whereabouts, as well as possible safe houses. [passage omitted]

In a meeting with about 30 ambassadors from countries which donate funds to the PA, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak said the closure could be extended in accordance with security needs, and raised the prospects this could last "some weeks or months."

'Arafat told diplomats and foreign groups that "the (explosive) material was offered by the OAS to our fanatics." 'Arafat insists that a shadowy organization

exists in Israel of ex-IDF people determined to sabotage the peace process. He calls the alleged group OAS or Organisation l'Armee Secrete, the acronym of a group of French military people in the 1960's who sought to thwart Charles de Gaulle as he embarked upon a peace policy with Algeria. 'Arafat is even known to have said last year, before Baraq became foreign minister, that "Baraq is one of the big bosses of the OAS."

'Arafat said he was sure the OAS supplied the explosives, because of the sophistication of the bombs, which he claimed is beyond Palestinian capability and "not available anywhere in the Arab world."

When Baraq was asked about this allegation, he dismissed it as nonsense, saying 'Arafat should take care of his extremists and Israel will take care of its own.

'Arafat held separate meetings with envoys of Australia, Chile, the U.S., the UN, and a delegation of France's Chamber of Commerce.

This is not the first time 'Arafat has blamed Israelis for being behind such attacks. He repeated the charge several times after the Bet Lid attack in January 1995, including once in the presence of Yitzhaq Rabin, who upon hearing this walked out of the room.

The remarks of 'Arafat and Baraq seem to underscore the yawning gulf between the two on perceptions of security threats.

'Arafat also told foreign diplomats that he would do all he could to track down killers but that whenever he cracks down hard he is faced with criticism from Scandinavian countries for human rights violations. There is also speculation that he may once again close down the Hamas-leaning newspaper in Gaza, AL-WATAN.

Some of the diplomats who met with 'Arafat told him he should regard the suicide bombings as a personal affront, since the Islamic militants had defied a promise to him to cease attacks. Therefore, the diplomats urged, the militants should be disciplined.

'Arafat responded that understandings with Hamas against terror have been "complicated" by Israel's killing of Hamas terror mastermind Yahya 'Ayyash, dubbed "The Engineer."

The diplomats also told 'Arafat that continued attacks against Israel would only ensure a Likud victory, but 'Arafat rejected this argument.

In his meetings with some of the diplomats, 'Arafat asked that a message be conveyed to Baraq asking him not to call for a cut-off of funds to the PA in retaliation for the bombing. Indeed, Baraq refrained from making an explicit call for such a cut-off, though it was implied.

Baraq urged the envoys to cable their countries to press 'Arafat to take a tougher stand against militants. He said if the Israelis do not have security, the peace process could be hurt.

He noted that 'Arafat is more capable of cracking down on militants now that he is a democratically elected leader.

Terje Larsen, UN coordinator for the territories who participated in the meeting with Baraq, expressed his opposition to a prolonged closure.

Palestinian Affairs: Jibril Congratulates Hamas on Bombings

JN2602193796 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), sent a cable of congratulations to the leadership of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. Following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother Khalid Mish'al, head of the Hamas Political Bureau, brother Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas official spokesman, peace and blessing of God be upon you. God says: Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, heal the breasts of believers, and still the indignation of their hearts. For God will turn in mercy to whom he will; and God is All-Knowing, All-Wise.

Our cause and nation are in good shape. As Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, says: Until doomsday, the elements of good will remain in my nation. Our people are still in good shape, bringing birth to martyrdom-seeking heroes who reject the humiliating reality which emerged as a result of the agreements of humiliation and disgrace concluded by 'Arafat and his team with the enemies of the nation. The martyrdom-seeking operations that were carried out by the heroes of the Islamic Resistance movement, Hamas-the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, in Jerusalem and Ashqelon yesterday prove that the pulse of resistance is still high and that the path of martyrdom is the path to salvation from slavery and occupation. They also prove that jihad and martyrdom are the language best understood by the enemies. This was shown by the panic that gripped the Oslo team, the confusion that hit Peres and his party, and the fear that befell 'Arafat and his team. Over two years after the signing of their agreement, they continue to deceive people and play with their sentiments in the name of enforcing authority and the right to repatriation, and that Jerusalem, the

refugees, and sovereignty are [words indistinct] the final negotiations.

The honorable Palestinians inside and outside Palestine, together with the honorable Arabs, today raise their heads high, proud of the heroes of the martyr Yahya 'Ayyash cells, who tore off 'Arafat's false mask and restored to Palestine its prestige and position, which is in the heart of every Arab and Muslim. They also proved to the entire world that the children of Palestine will not cede one inch of their holy homeland, Palestine, from the sea to the river. Nothing will change this, no matter how loud the voice of [word indistinct] gets, and no matter how fast those rushing [toward Israel] move to suppress the militant forces inside and outside Palestine.

The children of al-Qassam and the students of Yahya 'Ayyash have proven that the Zionist enemy, which occupied our land and killed innocents, cannot escape punishment. To no avail are the shields set by those who recognized the Zionist enemy's sovereignty over our land and pledged to protect and defend it. Hamas has honored its promise despite the extremely difficult circumstances and fierce onslaught being waged against it inside and outside the homeland.

On this occasion, I voice my support for you and reiterate with you that the blood of the martyrs will remain the light leading the path of those seeking pride and dignity. This blood will remain an eternal curse chasing the traitors and capitulationists. Let us move ahead toward more victories. It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

[Signed] Ahmad Jibril, PFLP-GC secretary general

Palestinian Affairs: PLO's 'Abbas, Fatah Aides Cited on Attacks

MM2702125496 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 27 Feb 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Abu-Mazin: The Two Operations Are Aimed Against the Palestinian Side; Abu-Mahir: No Guarantee That Similar Operations Will Not Take Place as Long as the Occupation Is Still There"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Two prominent Fatah officials, namely Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir) and 'Abbas Zaki, have said that the Jerusalem and Ashqelon operations are aimed against the occupation, not the peace process. While PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) has stressed that the two operations will affect the peace process. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Abu-Mazin pointed out that these operations, which have been condemned by all parties, are aimed against the Palestinian side rather

than the Israeli side, especially as many civilians and innocent people were killed or wounded.

He said that "those who carried out these operations enjoy no moral, political, or realistic backing from the Palestinian people."

Abu-Mazin, who returned to the self-rule areas from Tunis yesterday, stressed that the Palestinian and Israeli sides are now required to deny the perpetrators the opportunity to achieve their objectives, namely the destruction of the peace process. He pointed out that extremists on both sides express their failure by carrying out such operations.

Abu-Mazin said that the Palestinian Authority is performing its security duties well, as attested by numerous Israeli officials, among them Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. He pointed out that even major states cannot prevent such operations. Proof of this is what happens in Western states from time to time. Abu-Mazin did not rule out the existence of coordination between extremists on the Palestinian and the Israeli sides.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Ghunaym (Abu-Mahir), who is in charge of mobilization and organization in Fatah, has stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that there can be no peace while the occupation is still there, and that there is no guarantee that such operations will not take place as long as the Israeli occupation continues its practices against the Palestinian people.

He said that the Palestinian people have proved through their commitment to the Oslo agreement and the Authority's adherence to the principles of the peace process that they are yearning for peace, but not an unjust peace. And Israel — if it wants to prove its good intentions — must hasten to end the occupation and all its results since 4 June 1967. He stressed that "without that, peace will remain an unattainable aim."

Abu-Mahir stressed that international law sanctions the right to resist the occupation as long as the occupation is still in place. He held Israel responsible for such operations, saying that these operations expose the Israeli intentions: talking of peace but yet securing none of the components of this peace, which he said is still merely a lie.

At the same level, 'Abbas Zaki, member of the elected Palestinian Legislative Council, has stressed that anything can be expected as long as the Israeli occupation is still there. He believes that the truce concluded between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority collapsed with Israel's assassination of Yahya 'Ayyash. Besides, Israel's assassination of Fathi al-Shaqqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, provoked reactions that had to be postponed [until an appropriate time].

Zaki said that, if the occupation and its crimes are not brought to an end, no one will dare approve of a peace for one side only.

Zaki expects further violent actions to take place, saying that the reason is Israel's practices, which prove that the current peace is for the Israeli side only.

He stressed that the people will be able to define their position on all that is happening when a Palestinian state has been established and the land-for-peace slogan implemented.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Aides on Timing of Attacks, Friction With PA

MM2602163296 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 26 Feb 96 p 4

[Report by Sami 'Abudi: "Jerusalem and Ashqelon Operations Considered Declaration of End of Truce Between Hamas and PLO"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ramallah — The two explosions in Israel yesterday have destroyed an undeclared truce forged by hard-line Islamists. The two explosions reflect increasing frustration over what they believe is a futile dialogue with the PLO. [passage omitted]

In Gaza a Hamas leader, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Hamas refrained from launching attacks on Israeli targets lest it be blamed for undermining the Israeli Army's redeployment.

Hamas, which is opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, had abided by an unofficial truce since last August. And at the end of last year Israel completed its withdrawal from six West Bank cities and hundreds of Palestinian villages.

The Hamas leader said that the movement will seize any opportunity available to it to carry out further attacks in the future.

This decision represents a victory for Hamas hardliners, who objected to a dialogue which Hamas moderates conducted for six months with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's administration.

Active Hamas elements have said that hardliners were frustrated as a result of the attempt to formulate an understanding with 'Arafat on defining the movement's role in the self-rule areas and its relationship with the Palestinian Authority [PA]. [passage omitted]

A Hamas leader, who asked to remain anonymous, said that Israel has not ceased to pursue Hamas fugitives, while 'Arafat continues to arrest and mistreat the movement's cadres and leaders.

A Hamas activist describing himself as moderate has said that this dialogue will achieve nothing, pointing out that armed attacks cannot harm Hamas in any way now. He said that Hamas does not fear the PA's campaigns.

Palestinian Affairs: Quray' Warns of 'Emotional' Reactions to Bombings

NC2602150996 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1250 GMT 96

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, by Diana Misbah on 26 February; place not given; from "The World on the Air" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Misbah] Dr. Ahmad Quray', following yesterday's two bombing incidents, Mr. Shim'on Peres said it is necessary to suspend negotiations with the Palestinians. What is the Palestinian response to this? What is the reaction among the Palestinian public?

[Quray'] Actually the most dangerous thing that can happen now is to react emotionally to issues, excesses, or violations that might happen at any moment. I mean, we have condemned the operation at the highest level. President Yasir 'Arafat strongly denounced such actions and regards them as unlawful. He condemned them and the people behind them. The Palestinian Authority [PA] has begun to take certain measures. The cabinet also issued a strongly worded statement denouncing and condemning such operations. We are opposed to violent acts, have consistently denounced them, resisted them, and worked against them. We constantly hold dialogues with Palestinian forces to persuade them to stop this. At the same time, however, we denounce the current reactions.

[Misbah] Dr. Ahmad, after each such criminal or terrorist operations, of which the Palestinian public is innocent, Israel imposes a security cordon and closes off some Palestinian areas. This invariably leads to more violence and causes further economic hardships for the Palestinian people.

[Quray'] Actually, there is some posturing in this attitude. What is taking place is not a security cordon but mass punishment of the Palestinian people. Some 60,000 or 70,000 Palestinians who go to work in Israel can no longer go to work and as a result no longer get a regular income. You know, they need this daily income to be able to live. Shipment of Palestinian agricultural produce to Israel stops, so large quantities of it will go to waste. Industrial products also can no longer be marketed in Israel. Normal travel by the public and tourism are going to be affected. Jerusalem is

now completely isolated. These measures are a form of collective punishment. They are risky because instead of being a deterrent, they will produce more frustration and despair and that in turn will lead to further violence.

[Misbah] How are the Palestinians handling this situation?

[Quray'] There are signs and warnings that the closing off of the Palestinian territories will continue until after the Israeli general elections. If this is true, I believe that the only solution will be a total opening of the Palestinian borders with Jordan and Egypt. We will have no alternative if the security cordon continues. We will not be able to live under such conditions. We will have to take active measures to throw open the borders with Egypt and Jordan with regard to travel, trade, and so on.

[Misbah] Moving on to other issues, the Palestinian Legislative Council will hold its first session on 7 March. Are there any specific issues on its agenda?

[Quray'] The Council will discuss all affairs connected with the daily lives of the Palestinians and everything else that has a bearing on the PA's business. The first meeting will be largely ceremonial and will be devoted to the election of the Council's president, his deputies, and the Council secretary.

The Council will then have to draw up rules to govern its activities. The most important thing is the separation of powers. The legislative branch will be completely independent of the executive branch. Additionally, the Council must create a body that will have the power to oversee the executive branch's performance and actions. It will have to form several committees for this purpose: a financial committee, an economic committee, a social affairs committee, a legal committee, etc. The committees, taken together, will constitute the body that oversees the executive branch's work. So the Council has important tasks. It will also form a committee that will oversee political activity, negotiations, and so on.

Palestinian Affairs: Security Chief Confirms Arrest of Activists

TA2602125496 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has been trying to locate the people responsible for yesterday's lethal attacks. 'Abd-al-Raziq al-Majayidah, commander of the Palestinian security forces in Gaza, said that the PA sees Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] political leaders as being also responsible for its military wing. Our correspondent Hanan Schlein reports:

[Schlein] In the wake of the unequivocal position voiced by Israeli cabinet ministers yesterday, the Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip operated overnight and arrested activists of the military wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. In a phone conversation a short time ago, Al-Majayidah told us that a total of 30 activists have been arrested so far, some of them members of Hamas' military wing, while others were being interrogated for suspected involvement in yesterday's attacks. Al-Majayidah denied that the PA had held negotiations with prominent Hamas wanted men about halting the attacks. We are in contact with the organization's political command, which is also the military headquarters of Hamas, he added.

Meanwhile, there has been a growing number of condemnations of the two lethal attacks in the Palestinian street. At this stage, the speakers chose to remain anonymous, but everybody expressed fear that a prolonged closure might be imposed on the territories, which would deal them a severe economic blow.

Palestinian Affairs: Police Arrest 90 Hamas, Islamic Jihad Members

TA2602181096 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night and today in the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian police detained 90 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members. Among the detainees are some members of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads, the Hamas military wing. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid reports that the Palestinian police are continuing their manhunt for a number of armed fugitives who fled from their homes. In another development, the Palestinian police have intensified their presence along the Israeli borders with the self-rule area in order to thwart any attempt to infiltrate into Israel.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Quds Radio Comments on Suicide Operations

JN2602213096 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian
Arab Radio in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Commentary by "special al-Quds correspondent": "The Zionists and the Victory Option"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Where will they escape, and in which den could the Zionists seek refuge when the pure Palestinian hand of vengeance stalks them from one position to the other, and from one place to the other?

Where will they escape, haunted by the spirit of the blessed Ibrahim mosque martyrs; the spirit of Yahya 'Ayyash, the brave engineer; the spirit of Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the mujahid thinker; and the spirits of the martyrs who passed away within the convoy of hero mujahidin?

There is no escape for them as the siege, the closure, and the Zionists' mechanized, fixed, and mobile patrols which surprise the militant citizens at every corner and in every alley, robs them of their daily sustenance and job security, and prevents them from preparing for the future of the sons or the grandchildren were unable to protect Jerusalem and Ashqelon.

There is no way that the invaders would enjoy stability on the land they usurped, the land which made them sit in a boiling caldron. Do the Zionists believe they can enjoy what they have usurped and rejoice in what they have stolen and that the sons of this homeland would stay away, watching their rights being violated, their land being lost, and their roots being wrested without acting, repulsing an aggressor, or confronting a usurper?

Do the Zionists believe that our people have accepted to be led by a straying clique which the enemy had enslaved and which humiliated itself in front of that enemy, and which claims it acts in the name of that people while, in reality, it has nothing to do with this people after having betrayed their objectives and turned against their march? This clique does not represent this people and will not be allowed to become the instrument with which the enemy will achieve its objectives and designs.

This is the Palestinian hand of vengeance which tears apart the enemy's liver in Jerusalem and Ashqelon, forcing the enemy to cry and to weep, and to act rashly as if this enemy tries to overlook the fact that the number of its dead today tallies with that of the Ibrahim Mosque martyrs against whom the Zionists committed one of the most atrocious massacres in history. Will the enemy also try to forget that the blood of Yahya 'Ayyash and all his colleagues within the martyrs convoy has not dried yet and that ceremonies and rallies continue to take place expressing our people's love and loyalty to these men and heroes who offered their lives for the sake of this people?

We do not say tit for tat. What we say is that the Zionist blood will never be more precious than the pure Palestinian blood. That's why every drop of Palestinian blood that will be shed on Palestinian soil will breed a new Jihad seed. As for the Zionists, their dead will be firewood that will kindle the fire in hell.

Where will they escape? Every Zionist settler has to choose between two fates; to leave to where he came from, or become pieces of stale meat thrown on the sidewalks of the cities of Palestine. He is free to choose.

Palestinian Affairs: Israel Approves Return of Another 18 PNC Members

TA2602142296 *Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic*
26 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — The Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker's office has announced that it has received an official Israeli approval for the return of 18 PNC members residing in Amman and other Arab and world capitals.

'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-'Alami said that the PNC speaker's office was notified of the Israeli approval through Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's bureau. Israel had expressed doubt about the membership of the 18 PNC members. In an official response, Israel had said that it was not certain that the 18 were members of the PNC. It backed down, however, and yesterday officially notified the Authority of its consent to their return after the PNC confirmed their membership. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Israel Approves Return of Extra 17 PNC Members

JN2602155996 *Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic*
1300 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Salim al-Za'nun, acting speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], said that Israel approved the return of 17 PNC members, in addition to the 152 members whose names appeared in a previous list.

Al-Za'nun said a new list containing the names of 25 members who want to return to the homeland was presented. The PNC acting speaker stressed that the PNC will not convene in session before the return of all members.

Palestinian Affairs: Israel Approves Return of Some PFLP Members

JN2602201496 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1900 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] is currently holding a series of meetings in Damascus to discuss the return of its members of the PNC to the homeland.

Sabir Muhyi-al-Din, member of the PFLP political office, said that Israel approved his return and the return of Abu-'Ali Mustafa; 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh; Jamil Majdalawi; Layla Khalid; and Taysir Qub'ah.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Abbas Denies 'Secret Agreements' With Israel

JN2402200196 *Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1900 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, unequivocally denied news agencies' reports on Palestinian-Israeli secret agreements.

Abu-Mazin said he was surprised Israeli circles are propagating such allegations about illusionary agreements for election purposes.

He added that such acts create confusion and lack of confidence in the Palestinian and Israeli circles, which threatens the peace process as a whole.

Palestinian Affairs: PA Sources— Hamas Sought Negotiations With Israel

MM2702120896 *London AL-HAYAH in Arabic*
27 Feb 96 p 4

[Report by Husayn Hijazi: "Palestinian Authority [PA] Sources Tell AL-HAYAH: Hamas Sought To Open Negotiation Line With Israel"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza — Palestinian National Authority [PNA] sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the Authority was some six months ago in possession of information about endeavors by some quarters in the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to open a negotiation line with Israel. According to the sources, the recent statement issued by the movement in Jerusalem, revealing its wish to negotiate with Israel over the release of Hamas detainees from Israeli jails in return for a halt to its suicide operations, moves this wish from the theoretical stage to the implementation stage.

The sources, who asked to remain anonymous, added that some Hamas elements have for some time been looking for a way to open the road to such negotiations with Israel, in view of the pressures to which the movement has been subjected recently. Because some elements in the movement believe that it is possible to follow the road pursued by the PLO in the past, namely moving from the stage of violence and armed struggle to the stage of negotiation with Israel. In this context the sources say that the decision to avenge Yahya 'Ayyash's assassination could be Hamas' latest method of exerting pressure to open the door to the negotiation course with Israel by raising the Hamas prisoners issue.

However, commenting on Hamas' statement, the former Justice Minister in the PNA [Furayh Abu-Middayn], who was a member of the Palestinian delegation to the talks on the prisoners issue, told AL-HAYAH that the Palestinian prisoners issue concerns the PNA. He added: "It is amazing for this issue to be used as a bargaining chip through booby-trapped buses or as a means to initiate negotiations with Israel. The PNA has not differentiated in its negotiations with Israel between detainees belonging to Hamas and detainees belonging to Fatah or other Palestinian factions."

Abu-Middayn said: "But since their demands have shrunk from the demand for liberating the land from the river to the sea to the demand for the release of their prisoners, I believe that Hamas will from now on head for a phase of estrangement between those outside and those inside [the self-rule areas], if the agreement by Hamas [leaders] inside to halt operations in return for the fulfillment of this condition [the prisoners' release] means a 180-degree turn in the movement's policy, since that would — in the view of Hamas leaders abroad — end the justification for its existence, as such a shift would not appeal to these leaders." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Qaddumi in Hospital for Heart 'Indisposition'

NC2702134496 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0910 GMT 27 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 27 Feb (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has decided to postpone his visit to Cairo until Friday [1 March] due to a sudden indisposition. He was planning to start the visit today upon an invitation from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Qaddumi was admitted into the heart hospital in Tunis last night for some tests, which are expected to go on for two days. He will travel to Cairo on Friday.

Qaddumi was scheduled to meet with 'Amr Musa tomorrow, Wednesday. He was also expected to meet with a number of Egyptian officials, among them Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, to discuss the latest developments in the peace process on the Palestinian- Israeli track and Palestinian preparations for the final stage negotiations on the question of Palestine.

Palestinian Affairs: Jordan Said Jamming al-Quds Radio*JN2602184896 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] SHIHAN, which publishes in Amman, Jordan, and SAWT AL-MAR'AH, which also publishes in Amman, Jordan, reported that al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and man, has ceased transmission and that it has been asked to stop transmitting for reasons, which SHIHAN and SAWT AL-MAR'AH, went into length to explain.

The family of al-Quds Radio, which you hear now and whose voice refutes the allegations of SHIHAN and SAWT AL-MAR'AH, both of which are published in Amman, has this comment to make to all our listeners. The Jordanian Government has for some time been staging a savage campaign of jamming against al-Quds Radio to the extent that the radio is only heard now with great difficulty in Amman. This measure against al-Quds Radio is coupled with the jamming, which the Zionist enemy is launching against al-Quds Radio. Despite all this, we will, God willing, continue to serve the people of the martyrs, the people of the intifadah, and the people of the undying and unyielding intifadah.

Earlier, 'Arafat authority revealed its desires and announced that al-Quds Radio has been closed. It went into length to publish stories on this subject.

Thus, all those who do not wish to hear the truth and those who wish to capitulate agree on continuing the fight against al-Quds Radio through jamming, distortion, and spreading rumors about the radio.

Once again, by continuing to fulfill its mission and making its voice reach our people despite the jamming, the family of al-Quds Radio is refuting these allegations through its words, voice, songs, and positions, which are loyal to the land of Palestine and its people and to the aspirations and sacrifices of this nation.

God is with us. Victory is near. Together we march on the path of liberating land and man.

Arab-Israeli Talks**Arab-Israeli Talks: Israeli Envoys To Present 'Stringent' Security Demands***TA2502064596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli delegation to the talks with Syria will this week pose stringent and updated demands in the security sphere. Among other things, the delegation will present clauses regarding demilitarization and the thinning out of forces, as well

as its demands involving early warning stations, among them preserving the Hermon station. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Israel's demands in the security sphere in the talks with Syria were recently readjusted in discussions held by the top security echelon. The talks with Syria resume in Maryland this week and will mainly deal with security arrangements.

Arab-Israeli Talks: Syria Expects 'Difficult and Arduous' Talks*MM2302154596 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Feb 96 p 2*

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria Expects Arduous Negotiations in Maryland, Urges Israel To Commit Itself to Parallel Security Arrangements"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus — [passage omitted] An authoritative Syrian source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the upcoming negotiations on 28 February will be "difficult and arduous," and their success depends on Israel's acceptance of the requirements for a just and comprehensive peace, especially with regard to the "the principle of full withdrawal from the Golan" to the lines of 4 June 1967.

The source urged Israel not to exaggerate its security demands and to commit itself to the principle of "equal and balanced" security arrangements to enable the talks to achieve the required breakthrough and move on to the fundamental and principal details. The Syrian source added that the atmosphere created by Israel as a result of announcing early Israeli elections in a bid to make gains in the peace negotiations will not serve the aim of establishing a comprehensive peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Informed Syrian sources say that Washington and Tel Aviv are trying and working to keep the Syrian-Israeli talks alive, because they believe that these negotiations will not achieve any significant progress before the Israeli elections.

The sources added that Syria is determined to recover all its rights in accordance with international law and UN resolutions, and it cannot forfeit its land, whatever the reasons. The sources stressed that the pressures to which Syria is exposed will not cause it to backtrack on its demands, and it is prepared to confront these pressures just as it confronted difficulties and challenges in the past. The sources said that Syria proceeds from basic facts and axioms that are beyond suspicion and over which no one can argue.

The sources said that the upcoming negotiations will not be easy, and the negotiators cannot be subjected to any pressure or influence after Washington's allegation

that Syria continues to "sponsor terrorism." [sentence as published]

Algeria**Algeria: President Zeroual Receives Mandela's Reconciliation Message***LD2502135596 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today at the presidential palace, President Liamine Zeroual received Aziz Pahad, the South African deputy foreign minister and President Mandela's personal envoy.

In a statement to the national media after the meeting, the South African deputy foreign minister said the following:

[Pahad in English fading into Arabic translation] Basically I have come on behalf of President Mandela to deliver a special message to President Zeroual.

The South African envoy said that the message stressed the need to strengthen ties between the two countries, and stressed South Africa's eagerness to promote these ties by opening an embassy in Algiers to consolidate economic and political relations.

President Mandela's envoy said that the message also said that South Africa was determined to do anything that would support the ongoing democratic process in the two countries and to condemn all forms of terrorism.

The visit of the South African president's envoy follows the telephone conversation between presidents Liamine Zeroual and Nelson Mandela, which was an opportunity for the two heads of state to reaffirm their commitment to developing bilateral relations based on friendship, solidarity and mutual trust. [passage omitted]

Algeria: BBC Reports on South African Envoy's Visit*MB2602080396 London BBC World Service in English 0530 GMT 26 Feb 96*

[From the "African News"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A South African envoy, who is visiting Algeria, has said he is there to strengthen relations between the two countries. The envoy, Aziz Pahad, who is also South Africa's deputy foreign affairs minister, is quoted by Algerian radio as saying he has delivered a message from President Nelson Mandela to the Algerian President, Liamine Zeroual. In it, he said President Mandela expressed his determination to support democracy in both countries and condemned all forms of terrorism. The visit follows an official protest by Algeria about a recent meeting between President Mandela and a former spokesman for the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front, Anwar Saddam.

Algeria: Health Workers Union Postpones Planned Strike After Talks*LD2502201296 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement, the National Union of Public Health Workers has announced that following yesterday's emergency meeting between the minister of health and housing and the union's head, it has been decided to postpone the planned strike by health workers.

The statement added that the decision was taken following the minister's pledge to deal with the problems raised by the union in March 1995 and pointed out that the National Union of Public Health Workers shall always be ready to consult with the government on any future proposal or initiative aiming at finding a just solution to the problems facing public health workers.

The statement asked the union's members, however, to look forward to the outcome of the forthcoming emergency meeting of the union's national bureau due to take place on 6 March.

Algeria: Paper Reports 'More Than 10' Bombs Defused in Week*LD2502195396 Paris Radio France International in French 1730 GMT 25 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A magazine close to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has hailed the resumption of the big military operations by armed groups in Algeria. It also says that the Islamist movement is not ready to make any concessions.

The daily LE MATIN for its part says that more than 10 devices packed with explosives have been deactivated in Algeria in a week. [passage omitted]

Algeria: Security Services Eliminate 38 'Criminals'*LD2602184896 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] A communique issued by the security services has said that the security services had eliminated 38 criminals in various search operations carried out in the provinces of Medea, Chlef, Batna, Ain Defla, Tiaret, Bejaia, Tizi Ouzou, Bordj Bou Arreridj, Blida, Bouira, Laghouat, and Etarf.

The security services' communique has added that the security services had retrieved during these operations quantities of military weapons and ammunition.

Algeria: FIS Mission Abroad Denounces Planned Dissidents' Meeting

MM2602152496 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
25 Feb 96

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Haddam: Salvation Front Deputies Dissociate Themselves From Turkey Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Anouar Haddam, head of the [Algerian] Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Parliamentary Mission Abroad, has dissociated himself from the meeting that some FIS founders intend to hold in Turkey at the end of February. The Parliamentary Mission's position is designed to play down the importance of the meeting, which is believed to be aimed at announcing the formation of a new FIS leadership. [passage omitted]

Haddam issued a statement, of which AL-HAYAH received a copy yesterday, saying that "the FIS Parliamentary Mission was surprised by FIS dissidents' attempt to hold a meeting in Turkey with a view to reorganizing the FIS. The FIS Parliamentary Mission announces on behalf of the FIS and the elected parliamentarians that it dissociates itself from this meeting."

He added: "The Algerian people's legitimate representatives, who are maintaining its authentic line, refuse to deal with those who recognized the putschist regime in the country. They also refuse to deal with those who have betrayed the Algerian people and the authentic leadership of the FIS." He said that "we in our capacity as elected parliamentarians back the meeting of loyalty in Batna, hence consolidating (the status) of Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj as leader and deputy leader of the FIS. This is in addition to the Provisional Executive Bureau in Algeria and the FIS Shura Council arising from the Batna meeting. And we renew our pledge to all our sincere mujahidin and those loyal to the FIS' authentic line to work to organize a conference for the FIS inside Algeria to settle disputed organizational questions after liberating the country."

He said that "the FIS Parliamentary Mission urges those operating within the FIS framework abroad to continue their support for the Algerian people to free them from the putschists' grip and recover their usurped right to choose their political leadership and social system."

Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter
MS2302135696 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT
in English 20 Feb 96

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; double paren-

theses denote source's use of brackets; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Editorial —

How was the 'Id [al-Fitr] for the military regime political prisoners!

Praise be to Allah,

The blessed month of Ramadhan has left after a short visit. 'Id has come for the Ummah to enjoy itself but many Muslims could not do that fully. Their thoughts went to the victims of war and oppression in Bosnia, Algeria, Chechnya, Kashmir. Their thoughts went to the prisoners of conscience and opinion who have been spending a countless number of 'Id in isolation inside a cold and dark prison cell. The Ummah of today is in deep need of their combat and sacrifice. For the steadfast amongst them, Allah (S.W.T) ((Almighty)) describes such people saying: "Among the believers are men who have been true to what they have covenanted with Allah. Some of them have paid their vow by death (in battle) and some are still waiting; and they have not altered in the least" ((Koran, Surat El Ahzab,33:23))

Algeria had this year a premature 'Id in the literal as well as in the figurative sense. Monday the 19th of February was declare 'Id in Algeria while the quasi majority of the Ummah had it on Tuesday. A real "war without images" is going on in Algeria. A war that the "giants of the world TV image producers" have apparently not scheduled it to take one of the "front seat" of the news until probably the irreparable will be done. This war which the impossible is made to keep it out of sight except for the images that serve the military regime, has nevertheless turns Algeria into the "hottest point" on earth in a interval of just four years. The numbers of victims is well above the now a year old and cold statistic number of 50 000 and the number of disappeared people is well above the equally old number of 3500.

Algeria can not enjoy the 'Id fully under these tragic conditions and more over under the actual conditions of hopelessness for a quick resolution of the conflict. All the keys for normalising the situation are indeed in the military Generals "pockets". They are very much lacking of real political will to bring Algeria in peace with itself for some reasons which at first may appear obscure.

The military regime tries to muzzle a part of the opposition while pushing "underground" the other part in order to keep them away from involvement in what is being designed for the future of Algeria and its natural resources.

In Algeria today, the thoughts of the muslims in the day of 'Id went also to the FIS jailed leaders who have preferred the cold and humid prison cells to a comfortable seat with the modern time "Pharaohs" by joining the "Sultan poets" group, they have chosen the isolation to the ephemera agitation of opportunistic politicians "captivated" by their love for fame, they have preferred the insecurity in the hands of criminals to the safety of the cowards... the have preferred the immensity of the Hereafter to the narrowness of this life (Nahsabuhum Kadalik wala nuzaki ala Allah ahada!).

May Allah protect and hasten the freedom of the FIS jailed leaders: Dr Abbassi Madani, Ali Belhadj, Abdelkader Hachani, and all the political prisoners in every unjust ruler's prison.

May Allah take away all the sadness and despair from Algeria and all the Ummah. Ameen!

The General strike was a success!

The general strike undergone by the Algerian workers in protest against the unjust decision of the military regime to cut down their salaries until the end of the year was a total success according to everybody. The supplementary hardship that the regime want to put the workers through comes in the midst of a dark economical recession marked by a hyperinflation, a high unemployment rate, a sharp decrease in extra-oil internal production... despite the invented "official" economic figures.

The strike lasted two day as planed at the end of which the head of the syndicate UGTA [General Union of Algerian Workers] has warned that the organisation will use other measures if the decision is not abrogated. He did not specified what are these "other measures". Some observers understand by that a gradual increase in the pressure and the next UGTA moves can only be General strike with workers rallies in public places. Others see the next UGTA move as a probable backward step in the confrontation as general strikes are seen by the regime as very dangerous. These observers go even further saying that the actual UGTA leadership in connivance with the regime have staged the whole thing in order to "diffuse" the workers anger and give itself some kind of credibility vis a vis the workers who have been expressing their disapproval of the UGTA leadership mangling with the military regime this past four years while neglecting its first duty of defending the workers right.

The military regime government by the voice of its prime minister Mr Ouyahya have agreed to postpone the decision until next month. He seems to follow the French prime minister Alain Juppee tactic of Decem-

ber 1995 when confronting the French general strike. Incompetency and originality can only be mutually exclusive!

The military regime fabricating a new FIS!

Pieces of news from here and there suggest that the military generals in Algiers are under pressure to acknowledge the fact that the FIS remain unavoidable for a real solution in Algeria (as if they have not known that all the time!). They are planing to avoid this problem by fabricating an artificial FIS with ex-members who most of them have left the "FIS train" at the sound of the first shacking in 1990 and a little bite later. The problem the military regime are apparently having for this machiavelic attempt is how to provide an artificial FIS representation or bureau overseas. The Generals are apparently working on it. They may even be tempted to send some political agents overseas... in Turkey for example. To be followed insha Allah!

The Algerian press, the dictatorship and the Islamists!

Following is an illustration of the type of relationship there is between what is called the private press and the military regime. It also shows that the military regime has been the sole provider of the quasi-totality of information concerning the struggle. The information is then "digested" and "transmitted" not only by the local press but also by big international newsagencies.

A big clash took place a month and a half ago between the Mujahidin and the regime army in the Algerian southern city of Laghouat. Following is a report from a journalist of the newspaper "EL WATAN" who tried to be a direct witness of what has happen in that city but the regime secret police intervned and prevented her from even entering the city. Paradoxically, the journalist managed to write on the same page of the newspaper (page 4) a account of what has happen in Laghouat in "details" degrading to the Mujahidin as usual and in accordance for the military regime strong "recommendations" and without even mentioning the source except by a vague "according to sure sources". The two articles, one describing how the journalist by the name of Salima Tlemcani was prevented to enter the city of Laghouat and report what has really happen and the other article (under the same name of Salima Tlemcani) describing in "details" what "has happen", are just few centimetres from one another and on the same page of EL WATAN newspaper (page 4). Here is the integrality of the first article under the title "The setbacks of a journalist" while what has happen in Laghouat will be published in the "Jihad and Mujahidin News" section of the next issue of "The Enlightenment"

Insha Allah. "Ready to live the event of Laughed hostage taken (!?) and to report objectively so as to permit the readers to follow the event, we have decided to travel to the site. A plane was taken to Ghardaia and after we shall join Laughed by land.

The first flight to Ghardaia is scheduled for 7.30 A.M. After one hour flight, the one thousand years old cite (Ghardaia) appears. The arrival formalities are done quickly. A taxi is ready to take us to the city centre. We seat in the back of the yellow peugeot 505 car without even being bothered by the fact that the taxi driver took two other passengers. The journey took just 30 minutes. When we arrive to the bus station, the chance was on our side, at least for the time being. A taxi driver going to Laughed proposes to us a place near the only woman in hijab at the back of the car. The woman in hijab engages a discussion. She affirms that the city of laughed was closed since last saturday and we may have problems to reach it. At 15 Km outside Ghardaia, the taxi driver started to slow down. We thought of the worst images of assassinated colleagues passed in front of us. Ouf! It is a real gendarmes roadblock. They make sign to the driver to stop to the right. They ask him for his identification documents. He complies. After having looked inside the vehicle, the officer asked for identification for the rest of us. We were the last ones to hand ours. As soon as the identities were checked, the gendarmes ordered us all to get out of the car. He looked at us for a moment and then said to us in front of all the passengers: "you are journalist...". Without hesitation we answered: "No!". But the officer was not convinced. He asks the same question and with insistence. To stop this questioning we say to him: "if we were journalists, we would never have come here, would we...". The gendarme walked a little away to check our identification cards. The passengers did stop staring at us. The worries started. We detached ourselves from the group and went straight to the gendarme. "Listen, it is true, I am a journalist but could not say it in front of all the others. I am going to travel 200 Km with them.". The officer smiled and said that he has been already informed of our arrival. This information arrived in his desk the day before! The orders according to him was to take us out of the car and to keep us there until further instructions. After having waited half an hour, a white car of Renault Express make stopped in front of us. There were three men in civilian dresses. They talked to the gendarmes. They also talked once in while in their walky-talky. They checked once more our document then asked us to take down the luggage from the roof of the taxi. They meticulously hand search the luggage. One of the agents question the fact that we did not have suitcases. He took our purse and empty all what was inside. Our personal dairy was read to the last page. We protested: "what you have in

your hands is personal. You do not have the right read what is inside." He informed us with a serene voice that he did not understand French!! We told him the same thing but in classical Arabic this time. He looked at us for a few seconds then put the dairy back inside the purse. He orders the taxi driver to return back to Ghardaia, to let us go and to go pay a fine because his documents were apparently not complete. Everybody got back into the car and we drove back to where we came from. The Express car was following us closely until we arrived to the city centre of Ghardaia. The taxi driver asked us to be patient for few minutes just the time to pay his fine then we can go back to Laughed. He was quickly approached by the same guys from the Express car who informed him that his taxi is to be immobilised (fourriere). "I have been a taxi driver for many years, I have never seen such situation.", the taxi driver told us before apologising for us. We crossed the street in search for another taxi. We noticed the Express was still following us. We decided to call our newspaper from the post office. As a mater of chance there were no telephone there. The Express car has followed us during all the time. We then went to the "El Djanoub" hotel always under surveillance from the Express. We asked the reception to connect us to our newspaper (by telephone). The guys from the express car are not three anymore they are now five of them. Two of the guys were observing us from the inside of the hotel and the other three agents from outside. Having noticed our worries, the reception woman proposes to help us to take the flight back to Algiers. She called the Air Algerie locale representative who was in the hotel and explain to him our problem. He said he can not promise anything but will do his best to book us for flight. As the Air Algerie representative stepped outside the hotel he was approached by one of the Express car men who talked to him for a moment, the representative came back to us and asked us for the plane tickets. He told us to wait for him at the hotel cafe shop. At 12.30 P.m, the representative came back and told us that our tickets will be at the Air Algerie counter at the airport. He suggested that we have our lunch in the hotel while waiting for the time. At 13.00 P.M., he came with a chauffeur to take us to the airport where he handed us the tickets. The Express car was all the time following us. The flight was delayed. The Express car was still there and its passenger still observing us until we were on board of the Boeing. It is there where our adventure ended. An adventure where a journalist of the daily newspaper EL WATAN has been prevented from covering for its readers, the Laughed events. This is called an obstruction to exercising our profession. Accordingly it is a crime punishable by law. ((end of article))

One really wishes that such journalists stop elaborating on news from "official sources" and start giving them plainly with the MENTIONING THE SOURCE so that the readers of EL WATAN (as Salima Tlemcani puts it) and of other newspapers make the difference between a piece of news and a piece of propaganda. They most probably have the capacity of making the difference just by themselves!

News of Jihad and Mujahidin!

"To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight) because they are wronged, and verily, Allah is Most powerful for their aid" ((Koran, Surat Al Hajj, 22:39))

"We don't like to "beat around the bush", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order to "grab" the right of the people to freely choose. "((Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah ALI BELHADJ in " Fasl el kalam fi moujahate dolm el hokam" ("The conclusive criterion in confronting injustice from the rulers "). page 303. Book written from cell No 09 in the Blida Military jail. 1992))

Last week the following operation was reported: "Mas-cara: In a "combing operation" launched by the Junta troops against a group of 37 Mujahidin near a cave known as "El Kut cave", 11 were able to cut a passage while 16 have won martyrdom Insha Allah after 20 days of encirclement and hard crossfire between the two forces. The rest of the Mujahidin retreated into the cave when the Junta troops decided to close the only entrance to the cave and to dynamite the whole thing. Suddenly heavy showers started to pour which caused inundations which caused opening of the cave from another location and the safe retreat of the Mujahidin. Praise be to Allah. This operation has caused the Junta twenty five soldiers" "The Enlightenment" would like to bring the following corrections about this operation as reported by the Mujahidin of The Islamic Salvation Army from the third region: The duration of the operation: from September 1995 to the first day of Ramadhan. During all these five months the 10 Mujahidin (and not 11) were inside the blocked cave. The Mujahidin lived many "Karamate" during that time. Some see in relating of "Karamate", a subject one should avoid because it will be distorted and made a weapon by the "unbelievers" who "believe" in the absence and inaction of Allah in this world as well as by those with "sick hearts" (spiritually speaking). Between this danger (or is it? since the probability for them to see otherwise is very small) and reporting as faithfully as possible the voice of those who are

writing the new history of Algeria by concrete actions and sacrifices without too much "philosophying", "The Enlightenment" will Incha Allah always chose the second. Praise be to Allah, the Mujahidin who returned safely to their base have manage to bring back with them the video film showing some of the five months test they endured as well as "karamate" which some reject totally but will not hesitate to "swallow" the same "phenomena" completely without a second thought if "wrapped nicely" in "mechanical of soil science" terminology. This is the "heart" of the problem or the problem of the "heart". Can the "HOWs" of things pretend to explain their "WHYs"?

Jihad operations:

Oued Rhio: The Junta has conducted an important mass arrest within the population of Oued Rhio after a successful mujahidin military operation which targeted a Junta secret police officer. Delis: The Mujahidin have attacked a Junta patrol composed of Gendarmes and armed militia (the new harkis) in the city centre. On gendarme having the rank of lieutenant and four harkis have perished. Two Klashinkoves, two Seminoves, an automatic pistol as well as a telecommunication equipment and a good quantity of ammunition were collected.

Following this operation the Junta army which is still administrating collective punishments, has arrested many people and destroyed some habitations and have warned the population of Dellis for any future similar attack against its forces. Bab Ezzouar: Two officers from the Junta "special forces" have perished during a military operation. One of the two officer was related to the torture centre of Kouba (Algiers). Chebli: A junta gendarme and an armed militia have perished in two separate military operations. An automatic pistol and some important document have been collected. El Harrach: In two distinct operations, a junta secret police officer from the Delly Brahim centre, a junta police inspector have perished. Ouled Yaich: A Junta gendarme having the rank of adjutant has perished in a military operation. Lakhdaria: The Mujahidin have attacked a patrol of the junta red beret. Four junta soldiers have perished. The Mujahideen have regained their base safely. Blida: The Mujahidin have launched an attack against a Junta gendarme patrol in the road to Benachour. Three Junta gendarmes have perished. Weapons were collected.

Egypt

Egypt: Al-Baz Affirms Arab-Israeli Ties 'Not at Egypt's Expense'

NC2502184196 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1730 GMT 25 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has described as unwarranted the fears of the establishment of economic groupings involving certain Arab states and Israel at the expense of Egyptian interests or with the goal of isolating Egypt from the region.

Speaking at a seminar entitled "The Current Crisis in the Arab World and Future Prospects" organized by 'Ayn Shams University's Middle East Research Center, al-Baz said: Although some Arab states are inclined to establish relations with Israel and end the state of war with it, this will not be at the expense of relations with Egypt.

Al-Baz explained that in spite of the fact that Israel and some Arab states have common interests in the fields of water, tourism, or other things, the extent of these interests is small compared to those countries' shared interests with Egypt.

He affirmed that relations between Egypt and the Arab states have strategic and historic elements that should not be overlooked.

Egypt: Agreement Reached With Argentina To Build Modern Reactor

NC2702111496 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0940 GMT 27 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Feb (MENA)—The Egyptian weekly magazine, AKHIR SA'AH, has reported in its issue for tomorrow, Wednesday 28 February, that the Egyptian Atomic Energy Agency is building a very modern atomic reactor in the city of Inshas in al-Sharqiya Governorate. This reactor will be used for scientific purposes to serve medical, agricultural, industrial, and scientific research.

Citing a responsible official at the Egyptian Atomic Energy Agency, the magazine reported that agreement has been reached with Argentina to build this new reactor, which will have highly modern equipment and capabilities. The reactor will cost around 300 million Egyptian pounds.

The source added that the reactor is expected to start operating at the beginning of 1997.

Egypt: Cairo Says Britain 'Sheltering' Egyptian Militants

NC2302184096 Paris AFP in English
1758 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Feb 23 (AFP)—Britain has granted political asylum to the leader of an outlawed Muslim militant group who has been sentenced to death in Egypt for a failed assassination bid, Egyptian police said Friday [23 February].

"Yasir Tawfiq 'Ali al-Sirri, who heads the Tala'i al-Fath [Vanguards of Conquest], an armed fundamentalist group, has been given political asylum in Britain in the past few days," a police source said.

Al-Sirri was condemned to death in his absence in 1994 by an Egyptian military court after being found guilty of being involved in an abortive bid to kill former prime minister 'Atif Sidqi in 1993.

He was also sentenced to 15 years' hard labour in November for setting up ties with the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

"The Egyptian security services have handed over to the British authorities a file containing all the information on Yasir Tawfiq 'Ali al-Sirri including the sentences against him," the police source added.

He said al-Sirri had been living in London for two years, arriving "from Sudan where he made a brief stopover of a few weeks after leaving Yemen where he had lived since 1990."

Cairo has accused Britain of becoming a refuge for armed fundamentalists seeking to topple the government of President Husni Mubarak.

The interior ministry said in November it had proof that Britain was sheltering Egyptian militants planning attacks in Egypt, including one of the main leaders of the Jihad, 'Adil 'Abd-al-Majid 'Abd-al-Bari, who had already been given asylum.

In December, Egyptian authorities announced the arrest of a Briton of Egyptian origin, Akram 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mahmud al-Sharif, saying he was the military leader of the Jihad and had led an "Islamic cell preparing suicide attacks in Egypt."

The British government did not confirm al-Sharif's nationality, but has stressed that it takes a hard line against Muslim militants seeking to use Britain as a launchpad for attacks.

Egypt: Citizens Assault Police; Body Found in Search for 'Terrorist'

NC2502200396 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1745 GMT 25 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—A responsible source at the Interior Ministry said this evening that while a force belonging to the al-Gharbiyah Security Directorate was proceeding to enforce a judicial verdict in favor of a citizen in the 'Izbat Abu Shindi in Qutur against some citizens who had built houses on his land, the police detachment was confronted by people living in these homes, who tried to prevent enforcing the court order. The source said that a citizen opened a gas cylinder, hurled it at the force, and set fire to quantities of hay stacked over the roofs. The force was compelled to use tear gas to disperse the crowd and to get the situation under control in order to enforce the court order. The source said that in the incident Sergeant Fu'ad al-Sayyid Radi and five other citizens were injured and citizen Munir al-Sayyid Qandil was killed. The casualties were taken to the Tanta University Hospital for treatment. He added that the al-Gharbiyah Security Directorate commanders immediately proceeded to the scene and the situation was completely put under control. The forces are identifying the defendants; the Prosecution Office was notified.

Meanwhile, the responsible source said that while a police squad was searching an area adjacent to the 'Izbat al-Aqbat [Coptic area] in al-'Utmaniyah in the Markaz al-Badari suburb of Asyut to apprehend the criminals who fired indiscriminately in the 'Izbat al-Aqbat yesterday evening—which left seven people dead and two wounded—the body of Maskin Mis'ad Fam Marmiyan was found in the same area. He said that the police continue to surround the hilly area where the criminals are believed to have fled. The prosecutor's office has been notified for investigation.

Egypt: Four Injured in Attack on 'Virgin Mary Church'

NC2502063996 Cairo MENA in English
2235 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)—Three Citizens along with a policeman were wounded in riotous acts that occurred today among inhabitants of the Damyan hamlet and neighbouring areas in al-Ibrahimiyyah district of al-Sharqiyah governorate in Lower Egypt.

This was stated by an interior ministry security source who added that the riot was sparked off as a result of some rumours circulated among the inhabitants as

regards some expansion to take place in the Virgin Mary Church.

The source added that the numbers of inhabitants converged following the rumours and tried to storm the church building and the house of its pastor priest Barsum 'Ayyad Nashid, who, before the lesser Bayram ['Id al-Fitr] tried to construct a room inside the church but was stopped immediately. The source clarified that the security forces have stood up to the inhabitants and prevented them from storming the church.

The source added that some of the rioters set some fields and neighbouring farms to fire which led to setting some houses ablaze. Eight fire engines were rushed to control the situation and quench the fire.

Al-Sharqiyah security leaderships and different research bodies rushed to the scene, with policemen continuing efforts to arrest anyone involved in the incident.

Egypt: 'Active Terrorist' Killed in Storming Operation

NC2402135496 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1320 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)—State Security detectives today succeeded in eliminating an active terrorist who was involved in several terrorist operations in Asyut recently.

A source at the Ministry of Interior stated that as part of the chase of fugitive terrorists, detective agencies monitored suspicious moves in the village of al-'Uqal al-Bahri in Markaz al-Badari and stormed a hideout housing terrorists.

The storming force was met by a salvo of gunfire and had to respond in kind. As a result, terrorist Abu-al-Hamad Ahmad Shihatah, a prominent terrorist leader notorious for his fierce methods and skill in the use of explosives, was killed.

The forces found on his body an automatic rifle that had been stolen from a policeman, 6 magazines loaded with live ammunition, coded documents, and sums of money.

Egypt: Police Officer Wounded in Storming Operation

NC2402125896 Cairo MENA in English
1242 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Feb 24 (MENA)—A police officer was injured today when he stormed into a house to arrest a suspect at one of al-Minya governorate villages in Upper Egypt.

The suspect opened fire against the police force which traded fire with him, a reliable security source told reporters.

The officer, a captain, was taken to hospital, while police forces started to comb the area to arrest the attacker, the source added.

Egypt: Police Officer Dies of Wounds After Clash With 'Terrorists'

NC2402154696 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1433 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)—Non-commissioned police officer al-Sayyid Salih of the State Security Detective Agency in Asyut, Upper Egypt, died of wounds he received today during confrontations with fugitive terrorists in Nazlat al-'Uqal al-Bahri in Asyut.

The State Security Detective forces had surrounded the said area, where several terrorists took shelter and killed terrorist Abu-al-Hamad Shihatah. The non-commissioned police officer died of wounds he received while engaging the terrorists.

A security source said the State Security Detective agencies, supported by Central Security and Asyut Security Directorate forces and various search units, are chasing the other fugitive terrorists. Blood traces were found at the scene of the incident, which indicates that the terrorists who are now being pursued are likely to have suffered wounds.

Egypt: Seven Killed in Gunfire in Asyut

NC2502082196 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
0715 GMT 25 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—Unidentified gunmen opened indiscriminate gunfire at citizens in 'Izbat al-Aqbat [Copts], al-'Utmaniyah Hamlet in the Asyut's district of al-Badari, yesterday evening. The attack left seven people dead and two others injured. The wounded were transferred to a hospital for treatment.

A responsible source at the interior ministry said that commands of the Asyut security directorate and intelligence service, as well as officials of the criminal laboratory, rushed to examine the scene of the crime. The public prosecution has been notified.

The source said that police are currently cordoning off the mountainous area where the defendants took refuge.

Libya

Libya: Envoy in Cairo Denies Reports on Chemical Plant

NC2602154296 *Cairo MENA in Arabic*
1500 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Feb (MENA)—A responsible source at the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau [embassy] in Cairo has denied reports by certain U.S. newspapers and agencies on the existence of a chemical weapons plant in the Libyan Jamahiriyyah. He stressed that these reports are untrue. In a statement today, the source said that these reports are part of a foreign media campaign led by certain U.S. circles to harm Libya and fabricate false accusations against it.

The source said that the Libyan Jamahiriyyah has constantly supported all regional and international initiatives aimed at making the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and nuclear weapons. He emphasized that those who made these accusations should look at the tremendous nuclear arsenal in Israel. Israel, he said, uses this arsenal to threaten Arab national security, adding that this arsenal constitutes a continuous nuclear threat to the region. He noted that the United States had previously stirred up a bogus campaign regarding the Rabitah medicines factory, which the whole world has ascertained does not manufacture chemical weapons as the campaign alleged.

Mauritania

Mauritania: UNHCR Reports Malnutrition Crisis Among Tuareg Refugees

LD2602161996 *Paris Radio France International in French* 1230 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Many children of the 34,000 Malian Tuareg refugees presently in Mauritania are reportedly suffering from malnutrition, according to a report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees issued on Sunday evening.

Western Sahara

Western Sahara: Abdelaziz—'War May Be Inevitable'

BR2602162196 *Madrid ABC in Spanish* 24 Feb 96
p 42

[Interview with Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, by Enrique Serbeto in Tinduf; date not given: "Abdelaziz: 'Our Confidence

in Peace Is Limited and War May Be Inevitable" — three first paragraphs are ABC introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Our confidence in the peace plan is limited," warned Mohamed Abdelaziz, the 48-year-old president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic. In his office he is preparing for the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of a painful exodus, with a view to possible direct negotiations with Morocco, but at the same time the threat of a return to war as an "inevitable" reality.

"In these 20 years we have suffered a great deal of pain and desolation. Morocco has spared no effort to annihilate the Saharan people, but they have not achieved their plans. We have shown that the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] cannot be defeated with weapons, and that brings us to the conclusion that the problem must be resolved politically," says this son of nomads who is the leader of a population numbering several tens of thousands refugees in a corner of the desert that is felt to be worthless even by its Algerian owners.

After five years of truce, this emptiness is home to the languishing inhabitants of a utopian land which is led by Abdelaziz and which, he hastens to point out, is recognized by 70 states around the world. "The United Nations is working on the peace plan and even Morocco has accepted the principle of a referendum on self-determination, which shows that the Saharan issue is an international problem and a matter which cannot be considered to be resolved in any way whatsoever."

Far From the Referendum

[Serbeto] But the peace plan now seems to be blocked. What is your position now?

[Abdelaziz] Indeed, we think that we are further from the referendum now than we were in 1991, and our confidence in the peace plan is limited. From our point of view, Morocco is stressing that it will only accept an outcome which they say confirms annexation. On the other hand, we do not think that either the United Nations or certain countries would be willing to put pressure on Morocco so that it at least undertakes to respect the outcome of the referendum. In our view, this position by Morocco will lead directly to the failure of the peace plan, meaning that a return to war would be an inevitable option. Moreover, this possibility is more likely in view of the fact that Morocco is making efforts to buy arms and step up its military presence in the area.

[Serbeto] So you back the war option?

[Abdelaziz] Despite the problems we are willing to continue our cooperation with the United Nations so that the peace plan can take tangible form as a referendum with a genuine electoral body and, at the same time, we are staying open to the possibility of direct contact or any other initiative.

[Serbeto] But Morocco says that direct negotiation would not be useful at this time. What would you be prepared to negotiate with Morocco now?

[Abdelaziz] Everything. The referendum problem, the obstacles that are blocking it, the future, the text of the questions. We could also discuss the framework of future relations between the two states in the event independence is achieved, or also how to carry out the integration of the Sahara into Morocco if that would be the outcome of the referendum. If we have been at conflict for 20 years why not give them a chance to negotiate? I am convinced that we will eventually sit down at the negotiating table, if not with this king then with his successor.

[Serbeto] But Hassan II recently said that if the peace plan fails, then everyone will stay where they are "until the end of time."

[Abdelaziz] Yes, he did say that, but he had also said before that if independence were won in the referendum, then Morocco would be the first country to open its embassy in the Sahara. He has changed his mind several times.

[Serbeto] So how can the path toward the referendum be cleared up?

[Abdelaziz] The correct progress of the process of identification depends on two things: first, transparent management. The people must be informed as soon as possible about whether or not they have been given the go-ahead to vote. Why hide the verdict until the last minute? Second, we stress that we are only prepared to work with the tribal subgroups mentioned in the Spanish census and the family chiefs from the colonial era.

[Serbeto] It is highly likely that Spain will change its government in the next few months. What impact do you think this will have on the conflict in the Sahara and the position of the former colonial power?

[Abdelaziz] We would ask any Spanish Government two things: first, that it do everything possible to repair the harm done to us by the signature of the Madrid agreement dividing up the administration of the Sahara. Second, that the historical relations of neighborliness between Spain and the Sahara should become officialized. Meanwhile, we regret the fact that Spain's position is still being subjected to blackmail

by Morocco, with such issues as Ceuta and Melilla, fisheries, and so on.

**Western Sahara: Minting of National Currency
Inaugurated**

*LD2602202196 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz launched today at Martyr Haddad Military

Base, in the liberated Saharan regions, the minting of the first national Saharan currency.

During the launch ceremony the Saharan president stated that this event is a new step on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the declaration of the Saharan Republic; it is one of the steps taken by the Saharan people since 1973 on the road of its freedom and setting up of its independent state. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Bahrain: Amir, Heir Apparent Praise AL-AYYAM, Denounce Attack

JN2602123696 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0645 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 26 Feb (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al-Khalifah, the amir of the State of Bahrain, has praised the important role of the local press in confronting the terrorist schemes aimed at disturbing the country's security and striking at its cultural accomplishments.

In a telephone call to Nabil Ya'qub al-Hamar, chairman of the board of directors and chief editor of the newspaper AL-AYYAM, yesterday evening, his highness expressed his pride in and appreciation of the vital national role being played by AL-AYYAM in enlightening the people and publishing the facts about the plots to sabotage and tamper with security in Bahrain.

His highness stressed that the state supports AL-AYYAM, its freedom, and all local newspapers. He said the state is duty-bound to protect them from saboteurs and terrorists.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, general commander of the Bahrain Defense Force and heir apparent, stressed that Bahrain — its government and its people — is determined to eliminate the schemes of terrorism and sabotage planned by a handful of deviants. In a phone call to the chief editor yesterday evening, he said the saboteurs are desperate because all their schemes have failed. This has been proved by their attack on the free and honorable word, as upheld by AL-AYYAM and all the other local newspapers. He expressed his pride in AL-AYYAM's courageous and honorable stands in confronting the forces of evil and destruction. [passage omitted]

Bahrain: AL-AYYAM Chief Editor—Situation in Country 'Reassuring'

JN2602195396 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] There are ongoing investigations into the bombings that targeted two hotels, two shops, and a car owned by Nabil Ya'qub al-Hamar, chief editor of the Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM.

In a telephone call with our radio, al-Hamar said that a handful of terrorists who receive support from outside are making desperate attempts to destabilize Bahrain. In this telephone call, AL-AYYAM chief editor said:

[Begin al-Hamar recording] First of All, I would like to thank you and Radio Jordan for this telephone call and for your interest in the security situation in Bahrain.

As you and everyone else knows, harmonious relations bind the people of Bahrain and the fraternal Jordanian people. Moreover, special relations bind his majesty the king and His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al-Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain. I believe that Radio Jordan's interest reflects feelings of love among the peoples of both countries.

I would like you and all the brothers in Jordan as well as all Radio Jordan listeners to know that the situation in Bahrain is reassuring and secure, praise be to God. There are a handful of terrorists and saboteurs who are supported by outside parties and are making desperate attempts to destabilize Bahrain.

As you and everyone else knows, the Bahraini people are secure, peaceful, and dear to everyone. We are ashamed that there are people amongst us who are perpetrating acts of sabotage. Life in Bahrain is very normal. I hope that all those who get to visit Bahrain will see that life is very normal here.

Of course, I have to admit that from time to time, this desperate handful of people carry out acts to prove their presence and draw attention, claiming that they are national elements. I do not think that any national element would destroy mosques, schools, and private and public institutions or try to bomb a car here and there or residential and commercial centers. These are not national acts. What national acts are these handful of people claiming?

I would like to reassure the brothers in Jordan and the entire Arab homeland, who are listening to us now, that the situation in our country is good, thanks be to God. It is one of the best situations. Anyone is welcome to visit Bahrain. It is open to everyone and to all brothers. [end recording]

Bahrain: Opposition Statement Issued on 'Id al-Fitr Occasion

JN1902120396 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
26 Feb 96 p 12

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali al-Mahfuz, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Bahrain, issued a statement to mark 'Id al-Fitr in which he hailed the steadfastness of the Bahraini people, who have earned the respect and appreciation of the world through their patience and courage.

The statement said that the Bahraini authorities celebrated the month of Ramadan and 'Id al-Fitr by turning the country into a military barracks and by arresting thousands of honorable and zealous citizens.

He appealed to the people to pursue a march of steadfastness to bring about change for a free and

dignified life that straightens out matters and provides people with rights — a life that proceeds from the values of virtue and righteousness and relies on the people's faith in the justice of their cause and their legitimate ambition to bring about change.

The statement said: For the second year in a row, the people of Bahrain refrained from celebrating 'Id al-Fitr. The signs of joy usually observed in the other Islamic countries on such an occasion have disappeared in Bahrain.

The statement added: Bahrainis, young and old, wore black mourning attire instead of the new clothes usually worn during the 'Id. They did so in response to calls by the opposition parties to boycott the celebrations.

The statement pointed out that confrontations between government forces and citizens have been renewed in various parts of Bahrain. Random arrest campaigns were launched in various places, and many citizens were arrested after the black outfit became an excuse to indiscriminately arrest people.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Citizens Ordered To Vacate Northern Demilitarized Zone

LD2302181196 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1645 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 23 Feb (KUNA) — The interior ministry today warned citizens and residents to avoid getting close to the demilitarized zone in the north of the country. Lieutenant Colonel 'Adil al-Ibrahim, interior ministry public relations director, said in a statement to KUNA that a large number of citizens had erected tents in the demilitarized zone and that many sheep and camel shepherds are grazing in the area. [passage omitted]

Lt. Col. al-Ibrahim concluded his statement by urging the owners of the tents in question and the shepherds to evacuate the area as soon as possible, otherwise legal measures would be taken to remove them. He stressed that security men had been instructed to remove the tents if the orders are not heeded.

Qatar

Qatar: Newspaper Slams Arab League's 'Silence' on Coup Attempt

NC2502170796 Paris AFP in English
1503 GMT 25 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Doha, Feb 25 (AFP) — A Qatari newspaper on Sunday [25 February] rebuked the Arab League for its "silence" over a coup attempt that was foiled in Doha more than a week ago.

"The Arab League retains total silence on a low plot which targetted Qatar's security, more than one week after it was aborted," according to the AL-WATAN newspaper, which reflects official views.

"Such complete silence raises questions about the (Cairo-based) League's ability to settle crises between member countries," the newspaper said.

Qatar called for an urgent meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to inform it about the coup attempt on February 17 and accused GCC members of failing to condemn the events.

Oman, which currently chairs the GCC, was the only Gulf state to condemn the coup attempt. Besides Qatar and Oman, the GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Doha accuses its former leader Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, who has lived in exile since he was ousted by his son last June, of having ordered the coup with foreign help. But Shaykh Khalifah, who now lives in Abu Dhabi, denied it.

Political sources in Doha accuse Saudi Arabia and Bahrain of being involved in the plot.

Doha's ties with Riyadh and Manama have been tense since the new amir, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, boycotted a GCC summit last December over the naming of a Saudi rather than a Qatari as GCC secretary general.

Qatar has threatened not to attend GCC meetings attended by the new secretary general.

But Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi 'Abdallah, said after a Gulf tour on February 13 that Qatar would attend upcoming meetings.

In Riyadh, the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY announced that the new secretary general, Jamil al-Hujaylan, on Sunday began a visit to Oman on the first leg of a Gulf tour, before taking up his duties in April.

Yemen

Yemen: Two Arab Israeli Knesset Members Arrive in Sanaa

JN2602155896 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 Feb 96 p 33

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-DUSTUR, Sanaa — 'Abd-al-Wahhab Darawshah, leader of the Arab democratic Party and Israeli Knesset member, arrived in Sanaa at noon yesterday on a visit to Yemen that will last a few days at the invitation of the General People's Congress.

Darawshah did not make any statement upon arrival in Sanaa Airport on board a Yemeni plane heading from Amman. He was accompanied by Talab al-Sani', member of the Arab Democratic Party and Knesset member. The two were holding Yemeni passports provided to them from the Yemeni Embassy in Amman. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Yemeni Government sources played down the importance of the visit by the two Knesset members. The sources said in an exclusive statement that Yemen is hosting the two Knesset members in their capacity as Arab citizens, nothing more.

A Yemeni partisan delegation visited Palestine during the Palestinian elections last month. The visit was boycotted by the Yemeni Reform Grouping, partner of the General People's Congress in the coalition government.

Yemen: Government Accepts French Proposal on Conflict With Eritrea

NC2502150396 Paris AFP in English
1449 GMT 25 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Feb 25 (AFP) — Yemen has agreed to a French blueprint to resolve its standoff with Eritrea over a chain of strategic Red Sea islands and prevent renewed fighting, the YEMEN TIMES said in its Monday [26 February] edition.

The "agreement of principles" calls on the two sides to refrain from using force and seek arbitration before a panel of judges from the International Court of Justice

in The Hague, the independent English-language daily said.

"Yemen agrees to the French proposal," Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani told the YEMEN TIMES.

The paper published the draft which it said France would submit formally to both sides later next week as well as to Egypt and Ethiopia, which have also mediated in the conflict, and to UN Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali.

If both sides agree, a signing ceremony would be arranged, probably in Cairo, it said.

Eritrea captured the island of Hanish al-Kabir (Greater Hanish) after three days of fighting in December last year.

The Hanish islands, to which both sides claim sovereignty in the absence of an international treaty, control access to the Bab al-Mandab straits between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden.

The arbitration panel will discuss the occupation of Hanish al-Kabir and the demarcation of maritime borders between the two sides, according to a copy of the draft obtained by AFP on Sunday.

French mediator Francis Gutman, who shuttled between Sanaa and Asmara earlier this month, had recorded "progress" in the positions of both sides, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Iraq: 'Tension' in Baghdad, Tikrit; Security Forces on Alert

MM2602120096 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 25 Feb 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Salih Qallab, 'Imad al-Furayh, Mazin Hijazi, Muhammad Sadiq, and Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Conflicting and Exciting Reports About Bloody Friday in Baghdad"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Despite their diversity and contradictions, all reports of the bloody Friday [23 February] incident which claimed the lives of Husayn Kamil, his two brothers, and his father in Baghdad the evening before last, point to a certain role played by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in carrying out the operation, said to have been carried out during a "tribal" attack. [passage omitted]

Regarding the stories reported by Iraqi sources in Amman and Damascus on the basis of information provided by Iraqis arriving from Baghdad, sources stressing that they had made contacts with members of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's family say that Saddam Husayn himself interrogated the two brothers following their arrival in Baghdad on Tuesday evening, and that he killed them himself and requested that the divorce of his daughters, Raghd and Rana, from the two brothers be announced.

The sources added that clashes occurred after the news spread inside the ruling (al-Majid) family, resulting in the killing of the persons whose names were mentioned in the official story. Other people were wounded, among them the Iraqi president's third son-in-law, Major Jamal Mustafa, husband of the president's youngest daughter, Hala.

According to the sources, Tikrit city, birthplace of the Iraqi president and his two murdered sons-in-law, has been isolated from Iraq and the world since yesterday, and shots have been heard there. A state of tension dominates that city and the capital, Baghdad. The sources added that maximum alert has been declared in security organs, and that forces from the special security organ, led by Qusayy Saddam Husayn, have been deployed in Baghdad. The sources say that the killings have caused a big split in the Iraqi president's family and that the conflict among its various wings has assumed a bloody nature.

Another story says that an attack with hand grenades on the house in which Husayn Kamil and members of his family were staying in al-Sayyidiyah district in Baghdad caused the house to collapse on top of the two brothers, their father, and their third brother. This report

stressed that the two brothers were unarmed when the attack took place.

A third story says that former Defense Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, uncle of the two brothers and cousin of the Iraqi president, led the bloody Friday attack to kill his two nephews. Al-Majid failed to persuade the two brothers to return to Iraq when he followed them to Amman — accompanied by 'Udayy, the Iraqi president's eldest son — on the first day of their defection with their wives, the president's daughters, last August.

The sources of this story say that 'Udayy participated in drawing up the plan to attack Husayn Kamil. [passage omitted]

Iraq: Two Sisters of Husayn Kamil Reportedly Killed

NC2602195196 Paris AFP in English
1931 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman, Feb 26 (AFP) — Two sisters of murdered Iraqi defector General Husayn Kamil Hasan were killed in Baghdad Monday [26 February] along with their families, relatives in Amman said.

One of the sisters had defected to Jordan with him and two brothers six months ago, and returned with them to Iraq last Tuesday.

She and her children were killed on Monday, relatives told her husband 'Izz-al-Din al-Majid who had opted to remain in Jordan.

Another sister, who never left Baghdad, was also killed along with her husband 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majid and their children.

No details were given on who killed them or the circumstances of their deaths.

'Izz-al-Din al-Majid and his brother Hazim, who are cousins of General Hasan, asked to stay in Amman when the rest of the family returned to Iraq, Jordanian officials said.

However General Hasan, who said he had received safety guarantees from the Iraqi government, insisted that his sister and her children go back with him.

Witnesses said he even threatened his sister with a pistol and told her: "Our orders are that we all return to Baghdad, and so we shall."

The returning group of around 20 included the general's brother Colonel Saddam Hasan and their wives, both

daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, a third brother and their children.

The three brothers were shot dead on Friday along with their father at their Baghdad home by relatives who wanted to restore the Al-Majid family honour, Iraqi authorities said.

However, the United States and Iraqi opposition groups accused Saddam of ordering their execution.

Exiled Iraqi opposition groups claim that Husayn Kamil Hasan's nine-year-old son 'Ali and his brother Saddam's five-year-old son Ahmad have also been killed, even though they are the grandchildren of the Iraqi leader. The claims have not been confirmed independently.

Iraq: 'Informed Sources' Confirm Death of Husayn Kamil's Sisters

*JN2702093496 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
27 Feb 96 pp 1, 17*

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y — Informed sources told AL-RA'Y that General Husayn Kamil's two sisters and their children were shot dead in Baghdad yesterday.

The sources said one of the sisters had returned from Amman with Gen. Husayn Kamil, while her husband, 'Izz-al-Din, refused to return and stayed in Turkey. The second sister and her children did not leave Iraq when Husayn Kamil and his family went to in Jordan.

The sources said killing Husayn Kamil's two sisters and their children is a continuation of the series of killings that started with the general, his father, and two brothers on 23 February. It has been said that the killings were carried out by youths from the tribe.

['Izz-al-Din] al-Majid has another wife, who lives in Amman. Information disseminated by the opposition says Husayn Kamil's nine-year-old son, 'Ali, and five-year-old Ahmad, the son of his brother Saddam, were also killed. This information was not confirmed by independent sources.

Iraq: SAIRI Official—'Heavy Fighting' in Presidential Palace

*LD2702002696 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
2100 GMT 26 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kuwaiti news agency, KUNA, has carried a report quoting the Damascus representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], Bayan Jabr, as saying that heavy fighting had broken out inside the presidential palace between followers of the al-Majid family and

followers of the eldest son of the head of the Iraqi regime ['Udayy Saddam].

Jabr said that fighting between the al-Majids and the followers of the son of the head of the Iraqi regime broke out yesterday as all roads leading to the presidential palace were closed off.

The agency, quoting the SAIRI representative to Damascus, added that pitched battles are currently taking place in Tikrit between the following clans of al-Majids and the following clans of the head of Iraqi regime and his sons and that these battles have expanded to areas inside Kirkuk.

He said that large numbers of officers had left Kirkuk Governorate with their families and headed to unknown destinations. Bayan Jabr has added that the eldest son of the head of the Iraqi regime had issued his orders to arrest Tariq 'Aziz's son and those responsible for his protection.

This fighting has taken place after Baghdad's announcement on last Friday of the death of the Iraqi president's son-in-law, Husayn Kamil, his two brothers, and his father following an attack against them by members of their clan in a Baghdad area after their return from Amman.

At the same time, Mash'an al-Juburi, leader of the Iraqi Opposition Homeland Party [WATAN], has stressed that the conflict in Iraq has emerged within the ruling family after the death of Husayn Kamil and some of his family members. He expects something to happen at any moment.

Al-Juburi has confirmed in an interview with France Presse Agency [AFP] the news of clashes in Tikrit. He has said that any clashes in Tikrit mean clashes in the republican palace, because those who are in Tikrit are, in some form or another, in the palace.

On the other hand, some members of Husayn Kamil's family have said that two of his sisters, their sons, and the husband of one of them were killed yesterday in Iraq. These sources have said that one of Husayn Kamil's sisters had returned with him to Baghdad last Tuesday, while the other had been living in Baghdad and was killed with her husband and her children.

Kuwaiti Radio has had the following contact with Bayan Jabr on the situation in Iraq:

[Begin Bayan Jabr recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Information coming to us from our own private sources says that heavy fighting broke out between the followers of al-Majid family and the followers of 'Udayy yesterday evening inside the

republican palace. All roads leading to the palace have been closed off.

Private reports add that pitched battles are ongoing in the city of Tikrit between the following clans of al-Majids and those of the tyrant Saddam and his sons. These battles have expanded to areas inside Kirkuk governorate.

News that has just come to us now from Mosul governorate says that numbers of officers have left the governorate with their families to unknown destinations out of fear of the regime's tyranny.

Orders have been issued by the tyrant 'Uday Saddam Husayn according to which the Ziyad, the son of Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, has been arrested along with those responsible for the protection of Tariq 'Aziz.

As for talking about the role of the Iraqi opposition, we have stressed and absolutely stress again that the responsibility [himl] is only to be shouldered by its own people. Therefore, the Iraqi opposition and the Iraqi Army must act in concord with the people's movement. Field work is the only way to rescue Iraq from this criminal tyrant and restore security and stability to the region.

I bring the good tiding of the movement of the mujahidin troops. A few hours ago a large-scale assault against the troops of the fourth corps near the city of 'Amarah was launched, and fighting is still continuing while this news was being prepared. In the first few hours of the large-scale assault, the mujahidin have sprung from the heart of the marshes toward the center of the fourth corps. Large quantities of equipment and weapons have been seized and large numbers of the Iraqi Army officers and soldiers, who have raised white banners from the first moments of the assault, have been captured.

At this time, we stress to the other parties of the Iraqi opposition to move from the north, center, and south of Iraq in one coordination to deliver the death blow to this regime, which is living in its weakest state as the fever of killing and destruction has reached the inside of authority and even the inside of the [ruling] family. The ongoing fighting in the republican palace and Tikrit is the best evidence on the weakness of this regime and its slipping toward the abyss. [end recording]

Iran: SAIRI Chief—'Great Number' of Casualties in Tikrit Clashes

LD2702101296 Tehran IRNA in English
2312 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolu-

tion of Iraq (SAIRI), said here on Monday [26 February] that the latest reports from Iraq indicate that a series of armed struggles have taken place in some regions notably in the capital Baghdad following the killing of Saddam Husayn's sons-in-law.

According to SAIRI chief, Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir Hakim, in an armed clash that lasted two hours in Tikrit's 'Awja region, birthplace of Saddam and sons-in-law, between members of their respective clans, a great number of persons on both sides were killed or wounded and the road from Baghdad to Tikrit was declared off-limit to traffic.

Describing as "turbulent" the current situation in Iraq after the return from exile and subsequent killing of the two sons-in-law of Saddam Husayn, he said there has been an armed clash as well in the al-Radhwanayah district near the presidential palace in Baghdad, while heavy military equipments are being transferred to the holy cities of Karbala' and al-Najaf.

On Sunday, three days after their dramatic return and forced divorce from Saddam's daughters Raghad and Rana, Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid and Saddam Kamil Hasan al-Majid, were killed in suspicious circumstances along with a younger brother and their father. The defectors who returned six months after fleeing to Jordan, had been promised clemency, and the official story that they were killed by angry clan members to erase the guilt of treason from the conscience of clan members, holds little or no water both in Iraq and outside.

Observers have called it as yet another proof of the barbarous nature of Saddam Husayn and the horrific situation under which Iraqi people have to live.

Ayatollah Hakim described the former industries minister Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid as an ambitious person who aspired to take control of Iraq. He had a hand in most of his father-in-law's crimes against the Iraqi people, and SAIRI would have loved to bring him to justice, he added. Hakim said that Husayn Kamil tried to win over the Iraqi opposition after his much publicized defection to Jordan, but was deservedly rebuffed in view of past sanguinary record, and was finally enticed back to Iraq.

Saddam's decision to execute his two sons-in-law in such a great haste, is a sign of his growing anxiety over his own shaky future, he said.

On his recent visit to Kuwait, the SAIRI chief said that during talks with Kuwaiti officials, he exchanged viewpoints on the future of Iraq and its ties with Kuwait as well as assistance rendered to the Iraqi people. He said the U.S. has helped Saddam to stay in power,

the first time being when the Iraqi people rose against the regime following the retreat of Iraqi forces from Kuwait in the Persian Gulf war. On resolution 986 of the Security Council, Hakim said if the resolution is strictly applied, banning Saddam from using oil proceeds in strengthening his security and military systems, the trend could be beneficial to the Iraqi people, otherwise the oil for food formula should further help Saddam's regime.

Iraq: Sunni Oppositionist—Saddam 'Could Be Killed at Any Moment'

NC2702081396 Paris AFP in English
2240 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Feb 26 (AFP) — Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is under threat from a potentially explosive family conflict following the murder of his son-in-law, an exiled opponent said Monday [26 February].

Mash'an al-Juburi, a Sunni opponent, said the killings Friday of General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid, two of his brothers and his father would unleash violence within the al-Majid family which surrounds Saddam.

"Conflict is rumbling within the al-Majid family in charge of protecting Saddam," he said, adding that the Iraqi leader "could be killed at any moment."

Al-Juburi dismissed official Iraqi reports that the brothers, who defected to Jordan six months ago, were killed on their return to Baghdad by their own relatives who wanted to restore family honour. Instead, he said Saddam's eldest son 'Udayy, one of the most feared figures in the Iraqi regime, carried out the attack himself.

The general's two al-Majid cousins whom the government said died attacking the defectors were in fact "friends of the general" who were killed alongside him, al-Juburi said.

He also confirmed reports from Iraqi Shiite Moslem opposition groups that there had been armed clashes in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit where the al-Majid is the biggest clan.

"Any clash in Tikrit is reflected at the presidential palace in Baghdad where the same people are to be found," al-Juburi said. He added that the various Iraqi opposition groups had been invited to meet soon in Damascus to discuss their country's post-Saddam period.

He said he was even ready to back Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, the leader of the Shiite Moslem Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI), to take power in Baghdad "as I would prefer a Shiite leader to a Sunni despot."

Al-Juburi fled Iraq in 1990 and holds a Jordanian passport. He was prevented from returning to Jordan a month ago after travelling to Damascus where he met Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Iraq: 'Purge Campaign' Against Husayn Kamil Clan Said Continuing

MM2702110296 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
27 Feb 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat and Tariq al-Mawmani: "Purge Campaign Continuing"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — Reliable Iraqi and diplomatic sources stressed yesterday that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is continuing a large-scale "purge campaign" against more of Husayn Kamil's relatives and family "and anyone suspected of sympathizing with him in any way."

In London, the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, which belongs to the opposition Unified Iraqi National Congress, has revealed further details on the murder of Husayn Kamil and members of his family. It said that he, his brothers Saddam and Hakim, and their sister, wife of Major 'Izz-al-Din, who refused to return to Iraq, went to al-'Awjah village without Saddam Husayn's daughters, Raghd and Rana. They were confronted there by a large number of members of his tribe associated with 'Udayy, the Iraqi president's oldest son. A verbal clash took place, and as a result, Husayn Kamil decided to head for his sister's house in the al-Sayyidiyah district of Baghdad.

The sources said that about 40 armed men from the protection teams assigned to Saddam and his sons, 'Udayy and Qusayy, led by the president's cousin 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and wearing dishdashahs [long robe-like garments], attacked the house last Friday. 'Udayy and Qusayy were present but did not take part. The attackers exchanged fire [with the occupants of the house] for half an hour. Husayn Kamil and his group emerged from the house after running out of ammunition, so the attackers shot them dead and then burned Saddam Kamil's body. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid severed Husayn Kamil's head.

In Amman, Iraqi and diplomatic sources told AL-HAYAH that Saddam Husayn "is leading a bloody campaign that could affect officials in his government." [passage omitted]

Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabari received a cable yesterday from Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former deputy director of Iraqi military intelligence, expressing his support for the Jordanian position toward the Iraqi regime.

Al-Samarra'i said that "the fixed and stern Jordanian position defined by His Majesty King Husayn and Jordan's public position supportive of the Iraqi people constitute a major element for the desired radical change compatible with Arab and human values and principles."

Al-Samarra'i said that the Jordanian position "is appreciated by our free people...we have always hoped that the Arab states will take a clear public position in support of the Iraqi people against tyranny." He stressed that the lack of such a position "will never dissuade us from stepping up our efforts. In fact it makes us more aware of the need to coordinate and cooperate in order to consolidate the spirit of Arab fraternity, end the state of fragmentation in Iraq, and guarantee the people's full right to a dignified life." [passage omitted]

Diplomatic sources in Amman have said that several states have issued instructions to their diplomatic missions warning them "not to deal with the Iraqi Government or to provide humanitarian aid through them." The sources told AL-HAYAH that the Iraqi president "has caused the various forces to totally lose their confidence in the possibility of dealing with the Iraqi regime due to the way in which Husayn Kamil and his family and relatives were eliminated."

The sources pointed out that the Iraqi president "has once again dealt a blow to his own people, moving the humanitarian situation (in Iraq) from one tragedy to another." [passage omitted]

Iraq: Arab Human Rights Group Demands Inquiry Into Murders

NC2602135396 Paris AFP in English
1313 GMT Feb 26 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Feb 26 (AFP) - The Arab Organization for Human Rights (AOHR) urged the authorities in Iraq on Monday [26 February] to open a judicial inquiry into the murder of two prominent defectors who had returned home from Jordan.

The Cairo-based non-governmental organization said the Iraqi government must take responsibility for the killing of General Husayn Kamil Hasan, his brother Colonel Saddam Hasan, and other members of their family.

"The AOHR believes that the murder of Husayn Kamil and other members of his family is an unlawful execution for which the Iraqi authorities must take responsibility," it said in a statement.

The two brothers, their father, and another of their brothers were killed on Friday, three days after returning home following assurances from Iraq that they would be pardoned.

"Whether the incident was premeditated, whether it was carried out by members of Husayn Kamil's family, or organized with certain members of the Iraqi security forces, the Iraqi authorities are responsible for ensuring the security of their citizens and guaranteeing justice to those who have acted against the law," it added.

The organization also denounced Iraq's decision to honour two assailants said to have died in a gun battle with the Hasans by giving them state funerals which it said gave appeared to legalize their crime.

Iraq: Paper Sees Husayn Kamil Killing as 'Catastrophe' for Regime

MM2702090796 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI
in Arabic 26 Feb 96 p 15

[Editorial: "Tragic End for Miraculous Child of Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The return of General Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam to Iraq and the tragic incidents that followed it are still shrouded in mystery, and all the reports in this connection are merely speculation, just like his sudden defection to Jordan, which no one believed was true at the time. Some people said it was a show whose elements had been carefully planned in Baghdad.

All observers expressed astonishment the moment the defector announced that he was returning to Baghdad, because the man knew the regime full well. He was one of its sons, and he was aware that the it, that is the regime, does not forgive those who disagree with it, so what chance for those who defect, break away from it, and embark on actions classified as high treason.

Husayn Kamil's defection was the most serious in Iraq's history in terms of its timing and results. Thus it could hardly be said that the Iraqi regime was going to abandon its horrific tradition and heritage in dealing with its opponents, even if these included Gen. Kamil, husband of the president's daughter and himself the president's cousin, founder of the Republican Guard, and former military industrialization minister.

With regard to the timing, the defection took place at a time when Baghdad was being subjected to successive blows and pressures and when partition plans were being earnestly drawn up in Washington and more than one Arab and Gulf capital. Gen. Kamil was not known for his care for the Iraqi people, nor did he have any democratic history to confirm his care for pluralism and human rights. Thus his motives were purely opportunist, and his disagreements were with one of the regime's wings, not the regime as a whole. His personal ambition grew so much that he thought he had the ability to lead Iraq and assume responsibility for change there.

As for the results, the defection led to a delay in the lifting of the blockade imposed on Iraq. Because the information revealed by Gen. Kamil caused Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN inspection team, to backtrack on a report he was preparing and in which he stressed that there were no mass-destruction weapons in Iraq and that Iraq had fully implemented all the UN Security Council resolutions on this issue.

Husayn Kamil's defection spared Washington a big dilemma at the UN Security Council, as he provided documents to confirm that the Baghdad government was concealing weapons and important information about its chemical programs. And he caused embarrassment to Iraq's friends in the Security Council, especially Russia, China, and France, which had called for the lifting of the blockade because the reasons for it no longer existed.

Nevertheless, the execution of Husayn Kamil, his two brothers, and his father in such a manner, especially after he had been pardoned, is a catastrophe by all standards — a catastrophe for Iraq and the regime in Baghdad. Maybe it would have been more useful if he had been left to live, as the regime could have extracted information from him about the opposition and hostile states, confirmed its commitment to any pardon it issues even for people who betray it, and granted credibility to the next steps talking of pluralism and elections.

Husayn Kamil was finished mentally, physically, and politically the moment he discovered his mistake and decided to return to Baghdad; he did not need to be executed. His existence in the form of a "living dead" person could have represented a lesson for all those seeking to break away from the regime and flee the country in search of better treatment from the foreign forces opposed to Iraq.

Numerous parties are responsible for the bloody end of the Husayn Kamil phenomenon, which over the past six months has confused the region and its observers, first and foremost the United States and its allies, who closed all doors to him and made him prisoner in his palace in Amman after enticing and encouraging him to follow the path of treason and join the schemes aimed at toppling the Baghdad regime, which had helped him to reach the highest of posts.

The United States encouraged Husayn Kamil to defect when it said that it wanted a Sunni replacement from the same family to rule Iraq after toppling his leader. When he thought he was the required replacement and fled to Amman, U.S. intelligence used him in an ugly manner and treated him as an agent, but he was abandoned after extracting all the information in his possession.

It is a sad end for a miraculous child who climbed the ladder of power at a very high speed. His collapse was bloody, but it came as a surprise to no one.

Iraq: Paper Carries Husayn Kamil's 'Last Interview'

MM2602122296 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Feb 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "In His Last Interview With AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Husayn Kamil Says: If Saddam Says Something, He Abides by It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — In his last conversation with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 hours before he left Amman for Baghdad, Husayn Kamil, son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, appeared confident that nothing bad would happen to him in the event of his return to Iraq. He was also confident that, "if Mr. President" Saddam Husayn "says something, he abides by it"!

He said this last Monday [19 February] after news agencies revealed his decision to return to Baghdad. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT phoned him at al-Hashimiyah Palace, where he was staying as guest of King Husayn of Jordan. The following interview took place:

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Is what has been reported true?

[Kamil] What has been reported?

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] That you will be returning to Baghdad soon. You denied this a few days ago, saying that your return was dependent on the availability of conditions enabling all Iraqis abroad to return to their country.

[Kamil] It was proved to me that there was a plan to partition Iraq. That was not what I left the country for.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are you serious about returning?

[Kamil] Yes. I have sent a message to Baghdad and I am awaiting the reply.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are you confident about your fate, given that you did something unforgivable? It seems to me that you are risking your life.

[Kamil] It is my life, no one else's.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are you that serious? Can you guarantee that you will live?

[Kamil] I know Mr. President: If he says something, he abides by it!! Good-bye.

Iraq: Former Adviser Views Implications of Killings for Regime

MM2602121996 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 26 Feb 96 p 3

[Interview with Sadiq Sha'ban, former adviser to the Iraqi president, by 'Imad al-Furayh in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Furayh] The Revolutionary Command Council and the Iraqi Ba'th Party leadership issued an amnesty to General Husayn Kamil and his companions who fled to Jordan last August and who were then murdered one or two days after their return. What are your views on the incident?

[Sha'ban] Truly, I am surprised at what happened and at the incident's speed and style. I hope that you understand that I am neither defending Husayn Kamil, nor his past, nor his role in Iraq's fateful events over the last 14 years. However, the way Husayn Kamil and his family were treated will neither serve Iraq, nor its people, nor its traditions. More than once in the past, (this style) put us in a position where we have had to defend ourselves as a people. We all know that the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council, the country's highest legislative authority, had issued a general amnesty for members of the opposition abroad and in the country, and that Husayn Kamil and his group were included in this amnesty.

The tribal law [qanun al-'asha'ir] was revoked in Iraq decades ago, and using it in any way contravenes the state's laws.

Moreover, someone like Husayn Kamil, who was accused of treason and of divulging state secrets, should not have been allowed the freedom to live in normal quarters. Instead, his true place should have been a military prison until he, and naturally his companions, were given a fair trial. Therefore, what happened is unacceptable and no unlawful justification can be accepted.

[Al-Furayh] How do you assess the incident's impact on Iraq's political future?

[Sha'ban] I believe that, internally, what happened has caused a deep rift in the regime, and that the telegram sent to President Saddam Husayn by Husayn Kamil's tribe, stating that "the traitors have gone, the family has kept its noble tree, and your pardon — in the name of the state — did not rule out that they should be punished" poses a blatant challenge not only to the state's laws and prestige, but also to its policy.

From an international viewpoint, this incident coincides strangely with the negotiations on "oil for food" or Security Council Resolution 986. I do not believe that

it will have a positive effect on the Security Council members or the world's states in general. Therefore, I think that the outcome of the Husayn Kamil affair will not serve the regime's interests either internally, regionally, or internationally.

[Al-Furayh] What are the implications of President Saddam Husayn's family feud and its impact on the regime's strength inside Iraq?

[Sha'ban] Over the past two years, the family feud has crystallized between the president's sons as one group, and the sons of his cousins as another group, after the brothers' influence waned and they were removed from the competition. The first-generation cousins, namely 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and Husayn Kamil al-Majid, should have moved aside or recognized the sons' power in order to consolidate the position of [Saddam's] sons 'Udayy and Qusayy. This, however, was not easy, because 'Ali Hasan and Husayn Kamil's positions included the state's essential ministries and institutions.

Last July, 'Ali Hasan was transferred from his post at the defense [ministry] while his cousin Husayn Kamil held on to the military industrialization and industry ministry, as well as some companies used as a front. Meanwhile, President Saddam Husayn's eldest son 'Udayy started to increase the pressure on Husayn Kamil with a view to stripping him of his remaining positions of influence and allegedly threatened to kill him. In the end, all this prompted him to take the decision to defect to Jordan with his brothers and the president's two daughters. He divulged the regime's secrets in an unprecedented manner, even if this implicated him along with his enemies. In August 1995, with no visible competition remaining, the political situation became clearer for President Saddam Husayn's sons.

In fact the regime has lost two main elements of its true strength, namely cohesion within the family which, in time, has expanded, and the regime's security, which relied on this cohesion.

Iraq: Communist Party Blames Government for Kamil's Killing

JN2602174196 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1630 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 26 Feb (SANA) — The Iraqi Communist Party holds the Baghdad government responsible for the killing of Husayn Kamil and his family.

In a statement on the incident, the party said that the Iraqi Government did not protect whom it pardoned. It publicly sanctioned their killing in a blatant violation of the laws and norms, the statement added.

The party asserted that the killing of Kamil is a very good lesson for anybody who thus far believe Saddam Husayn's statements and trust his promises. It is equally a good lesson for all those who really care about the people and homeland and realize their severe plight and dire need for unifying ranks for the sake of deliverance from the Iraqi regime's burdens and sins, the statement added.

Iraq: Former Officer Reportedly Threatened With Kidnapping, Death

JN2602122396 Amman AL-URDUN in Arabic
26 Feb 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] A former Iraqi military officer, Muhammad Rajab, who has been living in Amman for the last five years, filed a complaint at a security station in which he says he has been threatened with kidnapping and assassination if he does not stop his activities.

A group of Iraqis, including an employee at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman, stormed the retired officer's house and threatened to kidnap or kill him if he does not stop his rejection of Baghdad's policies and end his contacts with opposition figures.

The group was driving a Mercedes that has diplomatic plates and is registered with the Foreign Ministry as belonging to an embassy staff member in Amman. They warned the former officer to stop publishing articles and political commentaries critical of Baghdad in Jordanian newspapers. In an attempt to blackmail and pressure the former officer, the embassy staff member, nicknamed Abu-Firdaws, warned him that his father, who lives in Baghdad, would be arrested. The former officer was quoted as saying that he believes the clique members, except the embassy official, came from Baghdad to carry out acts of sabotage and assassination in Jordan.

This is the second time in two months that this officer has received threats from Iraqi intelligence elements. He was also threatened by J. Kh., also known as Abu-Sumayyah, before the latter was deported from Jordan.

Iraq: London Paper—Killings Not To Affect UN Oil-for-Food Talks

MS2602115096 London FINANCIAL TIMES
in English 26 Feb 96 p 4

[Article by Robert Corzine and James Whittington: "Iraqi Killings Unlikely to Hit Oil-For-Food Deal"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The murder in Baghdad last Friday [23 February] of two sons-in-law of President Saddam Husayn is unlikely to have a direct impact on talks with the United Nations on possible Iraqi oil sales.

There has been widespread international condemnation of the killing of General Husayn Kamal, former head of Iraq's military procurement system, and his brother Saddam Kamal, who along with their wives returned to Baghdad last week from exile in neighbouring Jordan. But diplomats said there were no signs that the oil-for-food talks, currently in recess, would be affected.

Arab diplomats have also ruled out any long-term political consequences as a result of the murder of the two men and several other members of the family. But they said the extraordinary events in Baghdad last week would strengthen the psychology of fear already prevalent in Iraq.

The return of General Husayn Kamal "was a godsend for Saddam," said one diplomat. "It removed an irritant and returned his daughters and at the same time it sends a strong message to the Iraqi people that they shouldn't even think of opposing the regime."

Few people had expected that Gen Husayn Kamal, formerly a powerful figure in Iraq's ruling elite, would survive long in Baghdad. But his decision to return to Iraq was thought to have come only after he had been guaranteed clemency, perhaps as a humanitarian gesture by Mr Saddam aimed at the international community which he is desperate to rejoin.

"Looking back, the only acceptable explanation for his return is that it was an absurd, irrational decision made by a deluded person who believed he had reached the end of the line," said one Arab diplomat.

Iraqi officials have sloughed off criticism of the killings. Mr Nabil Najm, Iraq's ambassador to the Arab League in Cairo, said: "His end had to be expected. He deserved the death penalty because he was a traitor who caused a great deal of damage to Iraq."

Although the speed with which the two defectors along with their father and another brother who remained in Iraq — were killed took most observers by surprise, the outcome has reminded the people of Iraq and the international community that street thuggery remains the basic staple of politics in Baghdad.

Although diplomats say the killings should not upset the UN talks, they are bound to affect the atmosphere surrounding the negotiations on UN Resolution 986, which authorises Iraq to export \$2bn of oil to raise money for food and medicine.

Some diplomats believe the events in Baghdad may make Mr Butrus Butrus Ghali, the UN secretary general, who is closely identified with the humanitarian initiative, more cautious when drawing up an implementation plan for Security Council consideration.

Even before the killings western diplomats warned that Mr Butrus Ghali's "credibility was on the line". "If he comes back to the Security Council with a plan that runs into problems, then he'll take the blame," said one diplomat.

Mr 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's main negotiator, returned to Baghdad yesterday to report on the first round of the New York talks. These highlighted areas where agreement has still to be reached, including the contentious issue of how the aid will be distributed within Iraq.

Although the talks went further than previous unsuccessful attempts to reach an oil-for-food deal, some Security Council members remain wary of Iraq's intentions. "It is still an open question whether Saddam is serious about accepting 986," said one diplomat.

But state-owned newspapers in Iraq yesterday detailed preparations being made to receive food and medicines under the plan. And some diplomats believe Friday's events make an Iraqi acceptance of 986 more likely. Mr Saddam, having seen off the most serious challenge to his leadership and "saved face" as a result of the defectors' deaths, can now afford to make concessions, they argue.

Another factor will be Mr Saddam's new of U.S.-inspired moves in the region, especially growing rapprochement between Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Fears that Iraq's border with Jordan could be closed may convince him he needs to accept 986 to secure an independent lifeline to the outside world. "At the end of the day, if 986 does not fit into Saddam's bigger agenda, it won't work," says Mr Vahan Zanoian, an analyst at the Petroleum Finance Company in Washington. "But seemingly insurmountable hurdles can be overcome if it does."

Iraq: Opposition Group Says Saddam Plans To Poison Ekeus

MM2602104196 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 25 Feb 96 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Group Expects Ekeus To Be Assassinated"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — An Iraqi opposition group has said that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is planning to kill Rolf Ekeus, head of the international committee entrusted with dismantling Iraqi mass-destruction weapons, by slow-acting poison. The Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation [IBC], which has close links with the opposition Unified Iraqi National Congress, cited its correspondent in Baghdad as saying that a secret meeting was held in

Baghdad on 15 February to this end, and that Qusayy, youngest son of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn who is in charge of the "special security organ," chaired the meeting, which was held in the Iraqi intelligence service building in Baghdad. It was attended by Major General Mani 'Abd-Rashid, director of the intelligence service; Hajji Zuhayr al-Tikriti, assistant director of the special security organ and head of the public opinion and follow-up department in the organ; and both Colonel Ghassan al-Tikriti and Col. 'Abd-al-Sattar al-'Ubaydi, officials tasked with watching, monitoring, and escorting UN inspection teams during their work in Iraq.

According to the IBC, a secret plan was drawn up at the meeting to assassinate Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN inspection teams, during his next visit to Iraq, by slipping a slow-acting poisonous substance [into his food or drink]. The corporation added that "Qusayy Saddam Husayn told Col. Ghassan al-Tikriti and Col. Abd-al-Sattar al-'Ubaydi, after assigning them to carry out the operation, that the regime headed by Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn holds Ekeus responsible for the continuation of the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq."

Iraq: Paper Says U.S. Backs 'Terrorist Non-Democratic Regimes'

JN2502123796 Baghdad INA in English
1145 GMT 25 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Feb. 25, INA— An Iraqi newspaper has said the United States backs the most terrorist non-democratic regimes which do not respect human rights.

In an article on Sunday, AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said Washington supports the Zionist entity which occupies Arab territories for decades and detains thousands of Palestinians while exposing the lives of other to danger.

The paper said that while the U.S. Administration speaks about disarmament, it backs the Zionist entity which has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, signed by over 103 states, including Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH said those who follow up the U.S. policy would find that Washington is friend to the most backward and non-democratic regimes while it is hostile to governments that respect their people and work for their welfare.

The United States has imposed an unprecedented embargo in history on Iraq which has led to the death of thousands of children, women and the elderly as a result of food and medicine shortages, said the daily.

It said the U.S. had prior to the embargo launched military aggression against the people of Iraq, dropping thousands of tons of bombs which killed or wounded thousands.

AL-THAWRAH quoted the PEOPLE'S DAILY [REN-MIN RIBAO] of China as saying 15 million children in the U.S live in poverty. Also one out of four children do not find enough food and 16 million children are fatherless.

Iraq: Saddam Husayn Receives Former U.S. Attorney General

NC2502210796 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2040 GMT 25 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Ramsey Clark, human rights activist and former U.S. attorney general.

Clark said he was pleased to visit Iraq and meet the president. The U.S. guest stressed the need to work and struggle alongside Iraq and its people led by President Saddam Husayn to end the suffering caused by the unjust blockade.

Clark said the Iraqi people's steadfastness under President Saddam Husayn's leadership is a victory for humanity because the blockade is a crime of annihilation against humanity.

Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf attended the meeting.

Iraq: Former U.S. Attorney General Leaves Baghdad

JN2602130196 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0730 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb (INA) — Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark and his

delegation left Baghdad today at the conclusion of a week-long visit to Iraq.

In a predeparture statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, Clark said the Iraqi people are suffering because of the continuation of the blockade that has been in place for more than five years. The suffering of the Iraqi people has increased as a result of the severe shortage of food, medicine, educational supplies, and spare parts for water treatment plants and sewer networks. The people are also experiencing social ills. The suffering of the Iraqi people is cause for great concern in international quarters. Many well-meaning people have demanded the blockade be lifted to end this human tragedy.

Clark added: We are now certain that the difficult conditions created for Iraq by the superpowers were premeditated to block Iraq's technological advancement and active contribution to the progress of human civilization. Therefore, it is a war against justice, humanity, and peace.

Clark added: We visited 10 hospitals in Baghdad and the governorates. We saw patients with conditions that were uncommon before the embargo. Doctors are unable to help patients because they lack the simplest medical necessities. This is a stigma for the United States and all those who support the continuation of the embargo. Despite the great difficulties their country is facing, the sons of Iraq have demonstrated unmatched steadfastness, courage, and patience.

Israel: 3 Killed by Arab-Driven Car in Jerusalem's French Hill

TA2602134296 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew* 1330 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Report by Uri Kohen-Aharonov in Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have learned the following facts: An Arab-owned car drove into a group of people waiting at a bus station in the French Hill junction. After the car drove into the group of people standing at the station and hit several of them, a struggle ensued, during which the Arab driver was shot and apparently killed.

Police bomb squad experts are now checking the Arab car to make certain that it does not contain explosives. Very large Border Police and Israel Police forces and numerous ambulances are on the scene. There have been apparently several casualties at the bus station, but it is still unclear whether it was a terrorist attack or possibly a traffic accident, although the probability of the latter is very slim. The event is still in progress.

We have heard an ITIM report saying that three people were killed in this incident.

Israel: Jerusalem French Hill 'Terrorist' Slain, Said U.S. Citizen

TA2602140596 *Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew* 1355 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Report by Udi Segal — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The terrorist killed in Jerusalem's French Hill is an Arab who holds U.S. citizenship. In other words, due to his American citizenship he was allowed to rent a car in East Jerusalem. This emerges from details learned by the police.

Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal said that all leads are being checked and it still cannot be determined with certainty whether this was a terrorist attack or not. We asked him whether it could have been a car accident, and Shahal said: The investigation is under way and we do not yet know all the details. Therefore, we cannot say whether it was a terrorist attack or a car accident. In any event, the driver — whether he was a terrorist or a regular driver involved in a car accident — is a U.S. citizen of Arab origin.

Israel: Peres Addresses Knesset on Attacks

TA2602145896 *Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3 Network in Hebrew* 1407 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Political statement to the Knesset by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres on "terrorist" attacks — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Speaker, honorable Knesset:

At this moment checks are continuing into an incident that took place in French Hill in Jerusalem, where a man driving a Fiat — a U.S. citizen of Arab origin, who according to his papers is Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hamida — rammed his car into a group of persons waiting at a bus station and ran over up to 15 people, two of whom were apparently killed. This may very well have been a terrorist attack. The entire affair is currently being checked, and we already know that there is no room for speculation before all the details are ascertained. Currently the security forces are seriously looking into the issue.

In the past 24 hours the people have been united in their grief over the victims of two horrendous attacks: in the heart of Jerusalem, which was apparently perpetrated by a suicide terrorist who came from Hebron; and at the Ashqelon junction, carried out by a terrorist posing as an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier who walked into the hitchhiking station and perpetrated his deed.

One after the other, we are walking after the coffins of dear ones from all walks of the nation and laying them to rest, as we say a prayer in our heart for the well-being and full recovery of the wounded. Our consolations are no solace because words are too insignificant to contain the extent of our anguish. Our hearts go out to the bereaved parents, widows, husbands, orphans who were struck by tragedy in such a cruel and sudden manner. Our hearts beat with theirs and our tears flow with theirs.

At this difficult moment the people are united in their grief and put aside daily arguments and everyday issues. Jerusalem — which was, is, and will always remain the united capital of Israel — is today also united in its grief. It may be wounded but nobody will succeed in dividing it. Terror does not distinguish among us; it does not differentiate between men and women, between immigrants and long-time Israelis — unfortunately, there were at least nine immigrants among the casualties — between young and old, between observant and secular Jews, between one orientation and another. All of us are a good target in its eyes. Terror aspires to strike at our people, not just its policy. More than it aspires to strike at a specific target, the strike is actually its goal.

We are on a path of peace that has not yet reached its final destination. We are engaged in a struggle against

terror which has not yet renounced the path of violence as a key strategy. This is a contradictory situation. We must behold the hope of peace as we sustain the burden of violence, but I am sure that despite the terrible pain we will win. We will win because we are right. We will win because we are strong. We will win because we embody the only correct alternative for our nation and our neighbors. We will win because Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] does not have a solution to the conflict. It gives no hope, not even to the Palestinian people. They shoot at us, but they harm the Palestinians. They are responsible for the hatred, killing, poverty, and the closure. They aspire to repeat the mistakes of the past, which is what inflicted the real tragedy on the Palestinians.

A positive and a negative change have occurred in the campaign against terror. The positive change is reflected in the fact that the PLO decided to renounce the weapon of terror, and in certain cases it even fights against it. The negative change is the seduction of youngsters to commit suicide on Hamas' altar of illusions. The parents of the suicide operators will yet realize that murderers have no God and that suicides have no reward. As for us, we are convinced that ultimately the right methods will be found to defeat them.

It is clear today that it is impossible to fight against suicide operators without fighting against their supporters, preachers, and infrastructure. Their supporters hide behind the cloak of religion. They seduce young men and women to end their lives in order to strike at a target that is unbreakable. Israel was not and will not be a target that can be annihilated. Israel has bested armies, and will also defeat terrorists. There is nothing to be afraid of.

Hamas has founded charity organizations to conceal its true nature. These charity organizations raise money abroad, supposedly in order to help orphans, but they actually use the donations to acquire explosives. The countries where the money is raised must put an end to this fund-raising. Their infrastructure is paraded in public appearances in the territories. They hold memorial rallies for the murderers and flaunt their weapons in broad daylight. They found terror cells in the territories.

This serious picture poses a challenge to the Palestinian Authority [PA]. The PA must make up its mind whether there is room in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank for semi-military organizations who want to harm the peace and the agreement and to hit at Israel, or whether there is room there only for one organization entitled to bear arms: the Palestinian Police. The majority gained by the PLO is worthless if a minority of armed persons

can sabotage its policy. The PA must make up its mind either to disarm the terrorists or imperil its own authority. The PA must outlaw those operating against the law, as called for by our agreement. The PA must play its part, while we will do our share.

True, we will not stop the peace process and we will pursue it. We will adopt all appropriate measures to strike at terrorists everywhere, both before and after the crime has been perpetrated. We will not rest or sit still until all lunatics and violent people get the punishment they deserve. For us it is not just a question of victory. We will defeat them in any case, even if the struggle is long and demanding, just as it was long and demanding before. But this is a question of doing justice. No nation has done as much as ours has to create a real understanding with the other side. We did that in spite of the terror, and we will strike at the terror even as we must make peace. Hamas will not solve the Palestinian problem. Neither will it scare Israel.

Our best men in the security forces, the army, the Shin Bet, and the police will be engaged to locate and crack down on Hamas. Nevertheless, I cannot promise that there will be no more victims or that we will no longer experience sorrow. I am sure that we will bring about the collapse of this murderous organization, as other murderous organizations in history collapsed before.

In my capacity as prime minister and defense minister I have instructed all the security services to give top priority to the fight against terror in general, and against suicide terror in particular. Suicide terror, which is relatively new, calls for finding new fighting methods in addition to those at our disposal. A supreme effort will be made to find new means.

The closure in the territories will continue for as long as is necessary from the security point of view. No restrictions have been or will be imposed on the persecution of terrorists, the punishment of those who send them, or the destruction of their nests. We approached the countries from which money is sent to finance Hamas to take measures to stop the flow of funds. I demanded from 'Arafat that he order his troops to arrest the suspected planners of the terrorist attacks. In consultation with the heads of the security forces we formulated a list of operational demands that will be presented to the PA officials in charge of security. We will consider the fulfillment of these demands a supreme test of their ability to stand up to their commitments.

The closure, stepping up intelligence activities, drying up the money sources, outlawing the terrorist organizations, arresting the leaders of the terrorists, and other measures that I will not go into will also yield results in the fight against the terrorists. The war against terror

will remain systematic, relentless, and undaunted. Even if we continue to argue at home about the right path that must be trod toward peace, we will stand united as one man in the war against those who want to hurt us, our women, children, and parents.

They hurt us even before that, before there was a peace process, and they will try to go on hurting us now, when there is a peace process. I know that Hamas wants us to be scared, but we will not be scared. It wants us to be divided, but we will not be divided. The alertness of the security forces and the unity of the people are the order of the day today.

I appeal to the Palestinians who want peace to prevent the violent minority in their midst from destroying their future and their hope. A ballot, not a bullet, is the admission ticket to peace and liberty. The murders will not murder the peace process, but there will be no forgiveness for the murderers because of the peace process.

Mr. Speaker, Knesset members: On behalf of the government and on behalf of this house I send our deepest condolences to the families of the victims of the terror attacks in Jerusalem and Ashqelon. We will pray for the well-being of the wounded and for their speedy recovery. We will strengthen the hands of the commanders and soldiers of the IDF, Border Police, Israel Police, and the nameless soldiers and officers in the Shin Bet who on behalf of all of us spend night and day in the arduous, long, and dangerous pursuit after the fanatical terror.

Mr. Speaker, a nation is tested in its grief. Of course we grieve, all of us grieve, all of us grieved, and all of us may yet grieve. Even in times of pain, however, we will not throw into the sea our hopes for security and peace. Even in times of sorrow, we will know how to fight properly and stand united without losing hope. This is a time of trial but we will stand up to it.

Israel: Netanyahu Addresses Knesset on Attacks

TA2602161996 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 3
Network in Hebrew 1422 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Address by Binyamin Netanyahu, Likud chairman and opposition leader, at the Knesset session on attacks — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Speaker, Mr. Prime Minister, members of the House:

As we were still burying our dead, we received the news of another possible murderous attack in Jerusalem's French Hill. I do not know whether it was indeed a terrorist attack, but I do know for a fact that the two bombings yesterday were premeditated murderous

attacks. My heart weeps, and my throat is constricted with rage. We know that during the 100 years of Zionism, Arab terrorists have been attempting to break our spirit, upset our unity, and confute our desire to remain in this country. From this podium I will say to these contemptible murderers and their operators: You will not break us, you will not splinter us, you will not uproot us. The people of Israel are alive, the people of Israel are strong, the people of Israel will remain rooted in their land and, God willing, we will continue building our country on our land and in the entire united Jerusalem.

And to you, Mr. Prime Minister, I direct these words: Shim'on, fight them; fight them with all your might and all your vigor, and we will support you. You will have our support in this terrible, awful war.

Mr. Speaker, in these days of sorrow, no expression can describe the entire nation's mourning more aptly than the Prophet Jeremiah's words: O that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! Twenty-five Israeli families are weeping today for their loved ones who were murdered in the two bombings in Jerusalem and Ashqelon yesterday. Many dozens of wounded are still in agony, fighting for their lives in hospitals. We are all united in our mourning today, and we are sending from this place our condolences to the bereaved families. We all pray together for the full recovery of the wounded.

In recent years we hoped and prayed that our enemies' hatred for us was ending, that a new era of conciliation and peace was at hand. We all share the hope for peace. Furthermore, we hoped that our generosity and kindness would allay — if only slightly — the murderous disposition of some of our neighbors, who are out to kill us. Yet to our regret, Mr. Speaker, we realized again and again — each time in a more painful manner — that they interpret our generosity as weakness and our kindness as surrender; that instead of diminishing, terror has mounted; that instead of being closer to peace and quiet, we have neither peace nor quiet. Therefore, we should pursue our quest for peace, but cautiously and responsibly and, above all, realistically. We cannot entrust the Palestinian army with our children's safety. As we have realized repeatedly — more painfully each time — no one but the IDF, the Israel Defense Forces, can ensure our security.

Let us all agree today that, as of now, the Government of Israel — any future government — will not tolerate the huge terrorist infrastructure built in the heart of Eretz Yisra'el in front of our very eyes. Let us give the IDF,

the security forces, and the intelligence branches the freedom of action they need to guarantee our security.

We heard the prime minister make certain remarks today. This is not an appropriate day for arguments or disputes. Let us all unite today, let us march hand in hand for mutual support and strength. Let us look at the harsh reality with eyes wide open and realize: Those who want peace should guarantee security.

The first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, stood here in Jerusalem many years ago saying the following: The nation became sovereign with the establishment of the state, and it alone bears full responsibility for its security and survival. Foreigners did not establish or sustain the State of Israel, and foreign armies did not defend it when it was attacked shortly after its establishment. Had we not defended ourselves, not only would the State of Israel have been destroyed, but the Jewish community would have been eradicated from the earth. Knesset Members, today we must listen very carefully to these very significant remarks of the first prime minister, who taught us the unbreakable link between security and peace. We must not renounce this link, which made us unique and which led the State of Israel to prosperity, success, and to the approaching era of peace. Let us not forget that peace will be achieved only after security is guaranteed — the security of each and every person in the country, the security of each Israeli mother and father who should be able to part from their children in the morning without fearing the worst. Let the building of Zion and Jerusalem comfort us, and let the building of Zion and Jerusalem comfort the bereaved families. We are here to tell them today: We are with you in our hearts and spirit.

Israel: Knesset Urges Government, World Community To Fight 'Terror'

TA2602175596 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1700 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of today's political debate, the Knesset plenum passed a draft resolution calling on the government to wage a determined war against the terrorist organizations of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad anywhere and at any time and to take all necessary measures to eradicate their terrorist infrastructure. The Knesset appealed to the international community to enlist in the war against the terrorist organizations. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the draft resolution was supported by Labor, Likud, Tzomet, Meretz, the National Religious Party, SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], and United Torah Jewry.

Israel: Police Believe French Hill Event 'Accident,' Not 'Terror'

TA2602144196 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1437 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Report by Aviv Bushinsky — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Bushinsky] We have Commander Arye 'Amit, Jerusalem Police chief, here. Commander 'Amit, can you give us the latest update on the French Hill event?

['Amit] Yes. The picture is gradually becoming clearer, although it is still not absolutely certain. At the center of the event is an Arab citizen of the United States who rented a car for seven days and was staying in the Ramallah area. We are checking with whom he was in touch and where he was staying in Ramallah.

We now believe, in the wake of the traffic inspectors' examination, that this was not a deliberate attack, but rather an accident. The car left very elongated skid marks on the road, and we believe he lost control of the car — but the citizens who were standing at the junction saw it as an attempt to run them over. As a result, two people drew their guns and shot at him, possibly hitting at least one other person nearby. [passage omitted]

Israel: Final Verdict on French Hill Incident Due 27 Feb

TA2602180196 *Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew*
1700 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The police are saying that only tomorrow, after the car has been checked, will it be ascertained whether this afternoon's incident near French Hill in Jerusalem was a terrorist attack or a car accident. A car driven by a U.S. citizen of Arab descent swerved and hit a group of people waiting at a bus station and an adjacent hitchhiking post. There are strong signs of braking on the road. Two people waiting at the station were killed and 23 were injured in the incident. All of them sustained light to moderate wounds, and were hit by the out-of-control car and not by bullets.

Two Shilo settlers who were on the scene shot the Arab driver to death. The police are checking their claim that after the incident the driver got out of the car and assaulted a border policeman. This increased their suspicion that he was a terrorist, which is why they shot at him. The two were detained for questioning.

Israel: Closure on Territories Possibly Until After May Elections

TA2702105296 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew
27 Feb 96 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The closure imposed on the territories will continue until at least 10 March, after the Purim holiday, senior army sources said. They said the defense establishment is holding discussions on a much longer closure, possibly until after the Israeli elections in late May. They also said that even if the closure is lifted after the Purim holiday, it will be done gradually.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Israel Police have bolstered their activities along the dividing line with the aim of making the closure as hermetic as possible. A senior army source said that "the closure does not assure a hermetic sealing of the territories, but we must remember that the infiltrators are people wanting to earn their bread. In the past, when closures were imposed, there were almost no terrorist attacks." [passage omitted]

Israel: Peres on 'Terrorists,' Decisionmaking on Closure

TA2602174096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1700 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister says that an investigation conducted by the security forces has revealed that the suicide terrorist who carried out yesterday's bombing in Jerusalem was from Hebron, and that the authorities have his name. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that speaking with reporters at the Knesset, Shim'on Peres said that the Ashqelon terrorist may have also arrived from Hebron. He added that the possibility that the Jerusalem terrorist had also masqueraded as an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier has not been ruled out.

Referring to the fact that the closure was lifted at the end of last week, the prime minister said that the closure had been discussed every evening throughout its duration, and it had been decided that it would be lifted at the end of 'Id al-Fitr. Another discussion was held on Saturday night [24 February]. After the authorities received reports that a female terrorist from Gaza might attempt to bring a car bomb into Israel. Professional ranks deliberated between reestablishing the closure on the Gaza Strip and attempting to capture the car and the female terrorist. It was finally decided to opt for the latter, rather than reestablish the closure on Gaza. In any event, the resumption of closure on Judaea and

Samaria, from which at least one terrorist arrived, was not discussed.

Peres said that Yasir 'Arafat is trying to fight Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and 60 members of that organization were detained in the Gaza Strip in the wake of the bombings. Nevertheless, Hamas is to 'Arafat what the Altalena [Jewish ship strafed on Israel Government orders near Tel Aviv in 1948] was to Ben-Gurion, Peres said, although 'Arafat is no Ben-Gurion.

Israel: Slain U.S. Citizen in French Hill 'Born-Again Muslim'

TA2702063996 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
27 Feb 96 p A3

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to testimony by acquaintances of Ahmad 'Abd-al-Hamid Hamida, the stampeding driver who was shot to death yesterday at the French Hill junction in Jerusalem, it emerges that the man intentionally hit the Israelis who were waiting at the bus stop.

Hamida's friends in the village of al-Mazra'ah al-Sharqiyah northeast of Ramallah said that yesterday morning, before leaving for Ramallah, Hamida told them: "You will see me on television tonight." The friends did not take him seriously because he was considered a weirdo who became a born-again Muslim after getting involved with drugs.

The picture emerging from the stories by Hamida's acquaintances is one of a bizarre man who introduced himself as someone "who has devoted himself to Allah." His relatives refused to speak to Israeli journalists. However, they told Palestinian journalists they did not want to give the impression that what happened was a suicide terrorist attack and they were sure it was an innocent car accident. His relatives are apparently anxious about retaliation by the Israeli and Palestinian security forces.

According to testimony by relatives and information from other sources, the 36-year-old Hamida was born in the West Bank but grew up in Roland Heights, a suburb of Los Angeles, California. Among his papers was a drivers license from the State of California. Years ago, it is not clear when, he left the West Bank for Los Angeles where he grew up.

Acquaintances of the Hamida family in the village recounted that Hamida did not find his place in the United States. According to them, he was a drug addict who sought to recover, and after years of ignoring Islam he became a born-again Muslim. This information

could not be confirmed with his relatives last night who, as noted, categorically refused to speak to Israeli journalists.

It was learned last night from the police that Hamida entered Israeli territory in July 1995 and stayed in the West Bank until October. He left on a short visit to Jordan in early October and returned at the end of the month, apparently in order to extend his tourist visa (according to Israeli law, Palestinians entering the territories as tourists must renew their visas every few months). It was further learned from the police that Hamida rented a Fiat Uno yesterday from the Divani car rental agency in Bayt Hanina north of Jerusalem, within Jerusalem's municipal boundaries. The car had Israeli (yellow) license plates. According to the police, Hamida paid the rental fees for one week in advance.

One of the last persons who spoke with Hamida was the journalist Hafiz al-Barghuthi, the associate editor of AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, a daily published in Ramallah. He recounted last night that two nights ago Hamida came to the paper's office and asked to speak to the person in charge. When asked why, he replied that it was a personal matter. "A strange man walked in, with his pants folded up to his thighs, as is the custom of very observant Muslims who fear their clothes might become contaminated," recounted al-Barghuthi.

Hamida saw the pictures of the bus bombing in Jerusalem on al-Barghuthi's computer screen and said he wanted to speak to him about an important issue. "He told me his name, said he was a U.S. citizen currently living in al-Mazra'ah al-Sharqiyah, and showed me his passport. Then he told me: 'I was sick for a long time and I turned to Allah for a cure.' He mentioned Allah time and again, and said that he had devoted himself to Allah."

Al-Barghuthi added that after introducing himself Hamida told him that he had come to his office to warn him not to print verses from the Koran in his paper. "Afterward the paper is thrown in the street or in the garbage, and the verses are desecrated," al-Barghuthi quoted Hamida as explaining. Al-Barghuthi said he offered to sit down and talk with the man, but Hamida apologized and said he was in a hurry. "Then he told me: 'All I do is for Allah. I have no other motives.'"

Al-Barghuthi said that when he saw news agency pictures of a man laying on the road near French Hill he immediately recognized Hamida by his clothes and face and called his acquaintances in the village. The latter told him that Hamida had bid farewell to his relatives and friends in the morning, promising "that they would see him on television that evening."

Local villagers recounted that Hamida spent many hours outside al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, hanging out in the plaza, and collecting discarded papers.

Israel: Sources—Attacks Won't Affect Wye Plantation Talks

TA2702105396 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 27 Feb 96 p 16

[Report by Washington correspondent Hayim Shibi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Sources in the Israeli delegation in Washington said the terrorist attacks in Jerusalem would not affect the Wye Plantation talks scheduled to reopen soon.

The sources refused to reply to a question about whether the reports coming from Jerusalem — about the swing in Israeli public opinion this week — would also affect the Israeli-Syrian track of the talks.

'Oded Eran, the Foreign Ministry's senior economic official, brought along detailed proposals, such as "economic cooperation packages," which include the opening of Israeli-Syrian ski resorts on Mount Hermon. However, Eran was not sure yet whether he would present them at an Israeli-U.S. forum or directly to the Syrians.

In the last round of talks the Syrians agreed to a direct dialogue on economic cooperation issues. [passage omitted]

Israel: Peres 'Trial Balloon' on Postponing Hebron Redeployment

TA2602185896 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1
Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Talk in the studio between announcer Hayim Yavin and political correspondent Nisim Mish'al — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yavin] Is it true that the prime minister has threatened to hold up the Hebron redeployment if more terrorist attacks take place?

[Mish'al] I would not say he threatened. He made a certain observation, and then, realizing what he had said, he told us: Have I given you a headline? No, do not take it as a headline. The prime minister was referring to his remarks that went as follows: We keep our end of agreements, but all kinds of circumstances may arise causing a postponement of the Hebron redeployment. Should such circumstances arise, I will have to reconsider the issue. Later he realized that he may have gone too far and that his remarks may be read as an announcement of a postponement, and so he tempered them.

[Yavin] Then it is an option, and he will consider the issue if and when warranted.

[Mish'al] I think there was a reason for his remarks. He might have been addressing his observation to a certain party.

[Yavin] A trial balloon?

[Mish'al] In view of what has been happening, it is possible.

Israel: Defense Sources Refuse Comment on 'Agent' Abduction

TA2602193596 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense establishment sources have refused to make any comment on the abduction of a Lebanese who had assisted Mosad operations against Hizballah inside the security zone.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari notes that, according to reports from Beirut, the man, Ahmad al-Khallaq, was kidnapped from the security zone in the trunk of a car that drove through roadblocks on its way north. He was earlier drugged. He is now being held by Lebanese military intelligence.

Al-Khallaq and his wife were sentenced in absentia to 15 years imprisonment for the December 1994 bombing that killed Fu'ad Murniyah, the brother of one of the heads of the Hizballah terror arm. The Lebanese authorities claim that this bombing was carried out by Lebanese agents of the Mosad, and that they have made an effort in the past few months to kidnap al-Khallaq from the shelter he found in the security zone.

Israel: Peres Says 'No Truth' to GAO Espionage 'Charges'

TA2502125696 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Feb 96 p 15

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer, Hayim Shibi, and Arye Egozi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said over the weekend that there is no truth to the charges that have emerged from the U.S. Congress' General Accounting Office [GAO] report, according to which Israel is conducting an aggressive espionage campaign in the United States, trying to steal technological secrets. "Simply not true," Peres said in reply to a ques-

tion presented to him during a meeting with the board of Israeli editors in Tel Aviv.

The Israeli political echelon has decided not to react publicly to the report, following a recommendation by Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States. At the same time, concern has been expressed regarding the negative implications that the publication could have for Israel's image.

A source in Washington said yesterday that the allegations against Israel are recycling old material that has been reissued now as part of the U.S. election campaign "which emphasizes the issue of so-called foreigners." [passage omitted]

Official Israeli sources in Washington said over the weekend that they know nothing of an FBI investigation against Israeli elements, following suspicions of sophisticated electronic surveillance of Pentagon messages. American sources, however, confirmed that an investigation is under way. American reporters were told that the details of the investigation or its goals have not been exposed so as not to harm it.

Another grave report is being prepared now in American "channels" which also recycles old accusations — this time on PRC-Israeli deals. This report is extrasensitive in view of the growing tension between Washington and Beijing.

A senior Defense Ministry source expressed the belief that the U.S. report was leaked because U.S. officials are angry that Israel is competing against the United States in areas in which it previously had exclusivity. [passage omitted]

Israel: Shahal Opposes Police to B-H, Cites 'Manpower Shortage'

TA2402193796 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Feb 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Public Security Minister Moshe Shahal is opposed to sending a contingent of Israeli policemen to Bosnia following the withdrawal of military forces there. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that the United States has indeed made such a request; however, no discussions have been held on the issue. Shahal explained that he objects to sending a police contingent because the Israel Police already suffers from a manpower shortage. Shahal also described Bosnia as a problematic spot due to the presence of Islamic radicals in the area.

Jordan: King Husayn, Clinton Said To Discuss Plan To Topple Saddam*JN2602191896 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
26 Feb 96 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian-Iraqi relations have seriously deteriorated over the past two days for the first time in twenty years as a result of the slaying of Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brothers. This may produce serious repercussions, such as severing or reducing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti strongly denounced the killing of General Kamil and his brothers and summoned Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Nuri al-Wayyis the day before yesterday to tell him that Jordan wanted to see an end to Iraq's lies about the hospitality King Husayn had accorded to the two daughters of Saddam Husayn. The prime minister also spelled out Jordan's desire to reduce the ambassador's activities, as well as the embassy staff's covert and overt movements, which were placed under permanent surveillance after the ambassador's role in the return of Husayn Kamil and his companions was exposed.

Prime Minister al-Kabariti hinted to Ambassador al-Wayyis that Jordan might freeze its diplomatic and political relations with Iraq, but stressed the need to maintain economic and trade ties. This means that Jordan is not now considering the closure of its border with Iraq.

Observers in Amman believe that Prime Minister al-Kabariti will exploit the killing of Husayn Kamil to sever the remaining ties between Jordan and Iraq and to maintain a hostile policy against Iraq—a policy which the government of al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir refused to apply. Therefore, the government of al-Kabariti came to power to carry out that policy.

Sources close to the Jordanian Prime Ministry said that his majesty the king will meet with U.S. President Clinton on 6 March to discuss a definite plan to change the Iraqi regime.

King Husayn's upcoming meetings with President Clinton and U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry will focus on assigning a central role to Jordan in toppling the regime of President Saddam in accordance with a U.S. plan, which has been prepared and distributed to a number of pro-American states in the region, including Israel.

U.S. sources did not rule out the possibility of a multilateral military intervention to explode the situation in Iraq and to help the opposition forces destabilize and topple the Iraqi regime before next summer.

The U.S. sources also said that the Jordanian monarch would ask Perry to quickly supply the Jordanian Army with advanced weapons and warplanes to deter the Iraqi regime, whose military strength poses a threat to Jordan's new strategy, which is backed by the United States and NATO and which is hostile to Baghdad and Tehran.

These sources did not conceal their concern about the possible repercussions of an uncalculated Jordanian military action under U.S. command and in alliance with Israel to topple Saddam Husayn. Such an action would reflect negatively on Jordan and lead to serious consequences.

Jordan: King Reacts to Bombings in Israel, Developments in Iraq*JN2502140696 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1200 GMT 25 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] His majesty the king and Her Majesty Queen Nur have left for London at the start of a tour which will take them to the U.S. where his majesty is scheduled to undergo regular medical checkups.

The king will confer with President Bill Clinton and senior Administration officials on bilateral ties, developments of the peace process, and issues of mutual concern. His majesty will also deliver a number of lectures and meet prominent political and intellectual leaders in the United States.

Prior to his departure, the king spoke to reporters about Israel's bombings, latest developments in Iraq, as well as his forthcoming talks with the U.S. President.

[Begin recording] [King Husayn] I condemn the atrocious act that took place today in Jerusalem and I think there were two unfortunate incidents; and regret, as we all do, the innocent loss of life in this time. And I think that it is terribly obvious that these are people who do not want peace and want to try to destroy the chances of achieving the comprehensive peace that we seek and they are as such our enemies, the enemies of peace, and the enemies of life everywhere.

[Unidentified correspondent] What is your idea about what has happened in Iraq recently, about the killing of (?Husayn Kamil)?

[Husayn] Disgusted by what has happened, really, and I am unable to express myself toward this terrible crime.

[Correspondent] Does this make you feel more determined that there should a change in Iraq?

[Husayn] I believe it is inevitable, I believe it is inevitable. It must. I mean things cannot go on [word indistinct].

[Correspondent] Iraq will be at the center of your talks with President Clinton [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] I have no idea what we will talk about. I am sure that we will talk about the whole region, and the peace process, and whatever is of interest at the time. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Jordan: Minister Denies Reports Saying Amman Handed Over Kamil

JN2702092596 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic
27 Feb 96 pp 1, 15

[Report by Nabil al-Ghishan]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Minister of Higher Education Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur denied press reports on Jordanian Government involvement in handing over General Husayn Kamil to Iraq.

The statement by Dr. al-Nusur to AL-ASWAQ came after House of Representatives member Dhib 'Abdallah asked about the accuracy of rumors that the Jordanian Government handed Husayn Kamil over to Iraq after being threatened by the Iraqi Government.

The minister of higher education said these reports are incorrect and irresponsible, adding that propagating such rumors harms Jordan's image.

Al-Nusur added: The Jordanian Government provided Husayn Kamil with the chance to meet with media representatives, journalists, and writers in the days before his departure. Husayn spoke to them about his desire to return to Iraq. Jordan had no reservations about his personal desire to return, but the government specified Iraq as the only destination to which the defectors' families could go because they were the guests of his majesty the king and under his protection.

The minister said General Kamil left in broad daylight and was accompanied by the Iraqi ambassador. All media were aware of this so it would not be said that Jordan had handed him over to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Jordan: Political Rift With Iraq Seen as Separate From Trade Ties

JN2702131996 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Feb 96 pp 1, 7

[Report by P. V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Jordan is drawing a clear line between political and economic relations with Iraq and wants to maintain open borders and trade with

the Kingdom's neighbour despite deepening political differences with the Iraqi regime, officials said Monday [26 February].

This means that Jordan would continue to receive Iraqi oil and send food and medicine to Iraq in line with agreements already signed by the two countries as well as keep the borders open for cargo and civilian traffic while expecting further strains in political relations with Baghdad.

The rift between the two countries since the 1991 Gulf war over Kuwait became more pronounced when Jordan gave asylum to Iraqi defectors Husayn Kamil and Saddam Kamil, both sons-in-law of President Saddam Husayn, in August last year.

The rift widened when Jordan denounced as "a premeditated criminal act" the murder of the two defectors after they returned home last week under a pardon given by the Iraqi leadership.

However, Jordan does not think that the strain would extend to economic ties with Iraq if only because of the mutual dependence of the relationship, said a government official.

"Simply put, it is a question of Jordan needing Iraqi oil and Iraq needing open borders and continued flow of food and medicine from Jordan," said the official, who declined to be identified.

"We have not found any sign that Iraq wants any change in the present status of economic relations; nor are we seeking any change," added the official.

Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti was quoted as saying by AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE yesterday that "the official Jordanian position is to distinguish between political relations and economic relations."

At the same time, the prime minister added, Jordan was also waiting to find out Iraq's position "to see if it wants to change its attitude towards relations."

Information Minister Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said in an interview with British radio that Jordan supported all efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people but was not involved in any plan to topple the Iraqi regime.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir noted that Jordan had repeatedly said that while the Kingdom believed that the situation in Iraq must change, those changes should be brought about by the Iraqi people themselves.

He also said that Jordan had not asked Husayn Kamil to return to Iraq and the Kingdom had not expected him to be killed upon his return there.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said Husayn Kamil was depressed by his failure to rally Iraqi opposition groups behind him and this had prompted his decision to return home.

"This is an internal Iraqi affair and Jordan is not a party to it," said the minister, adding that Amman was also not involved in any efforts to bridge the differences between Husayn Kamil and other Iraqi dissidents.

General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former head of Iraqi intelligence who defected to Syria in 1994, on Monday paid tribute to Jordan's stand on Iraq. In a cable he sent to Mr. al-Kabariti from his exile in Syria, Gen al-Samarra'i said the position adopted by Jordan "will be a catalyst towards bringing about change in Iraq."

Gen. al-Samarra'i also praised Jordan's public condemnation of the "heinous liquidation" of Husayn Kamil.

The main Jordanian concerns over Iraq, as clearly expressed by his Majesty King Husayn, are that the Iraqi people are suffering as a result of the policies of their government and that they are also denied basic human rights.

The concerns are translated into a policy of speaking out against such a situation while also trying to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

"We may not be able to change the situation on our own, but we cannot and should not remain silent over it," a senior Jordanian official said recently, adding that economic and trade relations with Iraq should be seen separate from calls for an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people and for respect for their human rights.

Iraq was Jordan's main trading partner before the United Nations imposed sweeping trade sanctions against that country following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Under an exemption from the sanctions Jordan receives about 75,000 barrels of crude and fuel oil from Iraq every day and it settles part of the oil bill in food and medicine exports.

The Kingdom, citing mounting Iraqi debts, has reduced envisaged exports to Iraq by half to \$220 million in fiscal 1996, but the Kingdom continues to receive the same amount of Iraqi crude and fuel oil.

Jordanian officials have repeatedly affirmed that the reduction in exports to Iraq under the annual protocol was warranted by pure economic reasons and has no bearing on Jordanian-Iraqi political relations.

Diplomatic sources and political observers do not expect Iraq to cut off its oil supply to Jordan if only because of Baghdad's need to maintain open borders with the Kingdom, which represents its main lifeline to the outside world.

However, Baghdad, whose oil exports are banned under international sanctions, could decide to "see things in a different light if Iraqi oil starts to flow out" under an expected deal with the United Nations, said a diplomat.

The diplomatic was referring to Iraqi-U.N. negotiations on Iraqi oil exports worth \$1 billion every three months to pay for Iraq's needs of food and medicine. There are strong signs that the Iraqi government would accept the deal, "although Baghdad's behaviour is not very predictable," noted the diplomat.

If and when it accepts the deal, Iraq could receive up to \$700 million to \$750 million worth of food and medicine under U.N. supervision every three months. In that scenario, analysts say, there is an off chance Iraq might decide to "punish" Jordan for its criticism of the Iraqi government by cutting off the oil flow to the Kingdom.

Mr. al-Kabariti appeared to be alluding to that possibility when he instructed the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources after assuming office two weeks ago that Jordan should have oil reserves to last at least two months at all times.

however, a possible scenario involves the incorporation of the Iraqi oil exports to Jordan as part of the U.N. deal, according to diplomatic sources.

The sources say that the United States, the key player in the U.N. and an ardent advocate of continued sanctions against Iraq, favours including the Iraqi oil exports to Jordan as part of the limited sales envisaged under Security Council Resolution 986.

Jordan: Iraqi Opposition Leader Hails Government Position on Saddam

JN2702112196 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
27 Feb 96 p 21

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, PETRA — Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former chief of the Iraqi Military Intelligence, said Jordan's firm position in support of the Iraqi people, as stated by His Majesty King Husayn, is a significant element in the process toward the sought-after change in line with Arab and human values and principles.

He added: Certainly, the Jordanian position is met with the complete appreciation of our suffering people. We hope that the Arab states adopt an open and clear position in support of the Iraqi people and against dictatorship.

In a message received by the prime minister yesterday, al-Samarra'i said: The absence of this position will never dissuade us from escalating our efforts, but

will increase our belief in the need to coordinate and cooperate to entrench the fraternal Arab spirit and end the state of disintegration and division in Iraq and secure the people's full right to a free and honorable life.

In the cable from Damascus, al-Samarra'i said: Your brothers in Iraq have received with much satisfaction your statements about the ugly liquidation of Husayn Kamil and his family members and your accurate description of the situation in Iraq, where, in accordance with the concepts of tyranny, there is no dignity and freedom for human beings. I hope the prime minister will convey my feelings of pride in and appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn and his highness the crown prince.

Jordan: Kuwaiti Diplomat on Relations With Amman

JN2402170696 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal Sulayman al-Mukhayzim, Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Amman, said Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations reflect inter-Arab relations. He said the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 caused a fraction in these relations.

He said despite the tribulation and difficulties Kuwait faced, it maintained its commitment, remains committed to Arab reconciliation, and will continue to seek the realization of Arab solidarity. He said his country wants to lay down solid bases and principles for inter-Arab relations, and expressed optimism concerning the future of Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations, especially since the Jordanian public began to feel, due to its geographic proximity to Iraq, that our brothers the Iraqi people are suffering human-rights violations and that they lack the simplest forms of freedom and democracy. He said His Majesty King Husayn was clear in this matter in more than one address and news conference. Al-Mukhayzim said he is looking forward to a new basis for these relations.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY on the occasion of the State of Kuwait's National Day, al-Mukhayzim said the reconciliation efforts between Jordan and Kuwait are continuing.

The Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman issued a statement on the occasion of National Day and liberation day in which it speaks about the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees in Iraq, and said this subject will continue to be one of the most important Kuwaiti priorities. The statement called on all honorable people in the world to apply pressure to secure their release.

Jordan: Al-Mu'ashshir 'Sharply' Denounces Bombings in Israel

TA2502123396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1105 GMT 25 Feb 96

[Report on telephone interview with Jordanian Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir by Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus in Amman on 25 February — recorded; italicized passages in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. al-Mu'ashshir served as Jordanian ambassador to Israel during the past 10 months. Now, from his office in Amman, he says that the Jordanian Government sharply denounces the attacks in Jerusalem and Ashqelon and expresses its condolences. These are barbaric actions aimed at derailing the peace process, and there is no place for them in the enlightened world. We, the Jordanian Government, sharply denounce the attacks and send our condolences to the bereaved families.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] *The government expresses its deep condemnation of this barbaric act. We feel that acts like these have no place in the civilized world and only aim at derailing the peace process and denying the peoples of this area the right to a peaceful and prosperous life. We strongly condemn it, and we express our condolences to the families of the victims.*

Al-Mu'ashshir said that the Jordanian prime minister phoned the [Israeli] prime minister and expressed his condolences. He added: We will not allow the forces of evil to harm the peace process. We will do everything we can to prevent this.

[Al-Mu'ashshir] *We will not and cannot allow the forces of evil to prevail and to derail the peace process, and we will do whatever we can in order not to let this happen. Acts such as this only result in bloodshed that has no reason whatsoever.*

He said such things cannot be done in the name of Islam, because this is a religion calling for peaceful coexistence, and these terror groups in no way represent the real face of Islam:

[Al-Mu'ashshir] *Islam is a religion that calls for coexistence and calls for peace, and in no way do these groups represent the true image of Islam.*

I asked him whether there is any room for Israeli-Jordanian antiterror cooperation. Al-Mu'ashshir answered that all the peace forces must cooperate in order to prevent attacks. He is not convinced that it is possible to completely prevent the attacks, but it is possible to isolate the perpetrators in order to allow the nations to live in peace and security.

Jordan: Paper Comments on Bombings, Urges Self-Restraint*JN2602120296 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
26 Feb 96 p 21***[Editorial: "To Deny Anti-Peace Forces Any Chance"]**

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's bombing incidents in Jerusalem and Ashqelon have shaken all people who have a living conscience and who cherish the dream of future generations to live in peace, security, and stability. Those generations hope to keep away from the specter and woes of war, from which the region has suffered for far too long.

Jordan received the news of the tragic incidents with much human pain and sorrow. This was not out of fear that such reckless acts could halt the peace process, but because killing innocent and defenseless people totally conflicts with all the noble wishes of the peoples of the region — who share many moral values — for peace, understanding, and coexistence. His Majesty King Husayn pointed this out in his condemnation of the bombing incidents in the cables of condolences he sent to Israeli leaders.

In the same context, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, spoke about Jerusalem — which was appalled by the tragic incident — as a symbol of peace and lofty expression of the dream of the believers in God about humanitarian love, coexistence, and stability. His royal highness stressed that pain in the heart as a result of grievous human losses should be a motive for everyone to promote peace.

We in Jordan are against terrorism in all its forms, sources, reasons, and justifications, especially when its aim is free killing of innocent people. We, therefore, appeal for self-restraint to deny the anti-peace forces on the Israeli and Palestinian sides any chance. This can be done by going ahead with the implementation of the peace accords between the Palestinian National Authority and the Israeli Government. We firmly believe that only peace can remove hatred and spite and eliminate all forms of violence, extremism, and terrorism.

Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat said they are determined to pursue the peace process and besiege its enemies. This inspires hope that the impact of the tragic incident will be contained and that the dream of peace will come true. All peace-loving forces will support this pursuit.

Jordan: Paper Questions Israel's Responsibility for Blasts*JN2602083696 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
26 Feb 96 pp 1, 20***[Editorial: "Whenever Peace Falts, Violence Increases"]**

[FBIS Translated Text] It is regrettable that the vicious cycle of violence has resumed after a halt of nearly six months and that the bodies of scores of innocent victims were shattered in Jerusalem on Sunday morning in a horrible scene that calls for contemplation, instead of anger and revenge.

Undoubtedly, the two bloody operations that took place in Jerusalem and Ashqelon represent a renewal of the violence that has killed more innocent civilians during peace than it did before the peace process began. Whenever the implementation of this peace process falters on the ground, the door opens wide for the evil acts of killing and revenge.

Hence, the question is whether it would have been possible to avoid such bloody acts of vengeance if the historic reconciliation that began with Oslo and Washington agreement had continued to enjoy its initial momentum. Much of this momentum began to die away as a result of procrastination and evasion of deadlines and, moreover, the resumption of repression, expansion, settlement, and the confiscation of land, with all the accompanying humiliation and oppression.

Although we condemn the killing of innocents and civilians everywhere, this does not prevent us from wondering whether Israel could have averted the resumption of the suicide operations if it had stopped its policies of assassination, killing, and pursuit. Israel continued to practice these policies, without paying attention to the possibility of counteractions that are similar in their violence and bloodiness.

We hope that such bloody operations will make the Israeli Government stop dealing with thorny political issues through precautionary security measures, repressive actions, and military siege at a time when the peace process provides a realistic alternative that can be achieved if Israel truly begins the process of historic reconciliation.

Lebanon: SLA Commander 'Welcomes' Hizballah Offer To Swap Prisoners

NC2602155796 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with the Voice of the South Radio this morning, Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army (SLA), welcomed Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah's response to his proposals, which he had repeatedly offered in the past. The proposals call for an exchange of prisoners, missing persons, and martyrs with emphasis on the principle of equality in the exchange process.

Maj. Gen. Lahd emphasized that this issue must be handled by the International Red Cross, not by the mass media. Hasan Nasrallah's labeling of those held in al-Khiyam [prison] as detainees and those detained by him as prisoners of war is a play on words, because Hizballah is not a state and neither is the SLA. The detainees in al-Khiyam carried out or helped implement terrorist operations, while the SLA personnel held by Hizballah were defending their villages, homes, and livelihoods.

Several times in the past and through various channels, Maj. Gen. Lahd proposed exchanges of prisoners, missing persons, and martyrs' bodies on the bases of equality and reciprocal treatment. The proposals were prompted by concern for the safety of SLA personnel and their family members and by humanitarian reasons because of the suffering of the family members of the prisoners, missing persons, and martyrs on both sides.

General Lahd has repeatedly responded to the humanitarian aspects of this subject. He unilaterally ordered the release of some detainees and allowed visits by prisoners' families and Red Cross representatives, unlike Hizballah's inhumane handling of the issue.

Lebanon: Army 'Kidnaps' Israeli Agent Suspected in 1994 Bombing

NC2602173596 Cairo MENA in English 1654 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut 26 Feb (MENA)—A military intelligence unit of the Lebanese Army has kidnapped Ahmad al-Khallaq, a Lebanese national client to the Israeli intelligence.

Al-Khallaq was the main suspect in the explosion which took place in the Southern Suburb of Beirut at the end of 1994, press reports said.

The Lebanese intelligence implemented a successful kidnapping operation of the Israeli client from the Israeli occupied strip in south Lebanon, the report added.

Al-Khallaq had fled to the occupied strip and then to Israel 24 hours after a car blast in Sfayr district, the Southern Suburb of the capital in 1994. He stayed for sometime in the Philippines but returned to the occupied strip two months ago.

Israeli forces blocked crossings, arrested Lebanese citizens in the occupied strip and stormed houses in the region in search for al-Khallaq after the spread of reports on his abduction.

Lebanon: Hizballah Radio Notes 'Resistance' Attack on 'Enemy' Patrol

NC2702072696 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, the Islamic Resistance carried out a series of operations that targeted a Zionist foot patrol as it was entering the Beaufort castle post and two Zionist tanks that were guarding the patrol. The Resistance's fire support unit targeted the enemy emplacements, which were trying to help the Zionist patrol. These operations caused a number of injuries among the ranks of the occupation forces. The enemy acknowledged the injury of only two of its soldiers.

Lebanon: Syria's Talas Visits Formation Deployed in Lebanon

JN2602212296 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Upon instructions from President Hafiz al-Asad, commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, General ['imad awwal] Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief, deputy prime minister, and defense minister today visited one of our combat units deployed in fraternal Lebanon.

Upon his arrival, the general deputy commander in chief — who was accompanied by Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces, and the director of the [Army and Armed Forces] Political Department, who holds the rank of a major general — at the formation's command was welcomed by the commander of the Syrian Arab forces deployed in Lebanon, who holds the rank of a lieutenant general; the formation's commander, who holds the rank of a major general; the formation's senior officers; and a group of brother fighters.

The general delivered a speech in which he conveyed greetings from struggling leader President Hafiz al-Asad to the brother fighters in Lebanon and his best wishes of success in fulfilling their pan-Arab mission, which

would bolster the ideological role of the Syrian Arab Army, strengthen the unity of Lebanon's territory and people and its Arab character, and enhance the ties of fraternal cohesion between the sisterly countries, Syria and Lebanon.

The general then spoke about the current developments in the peace process. He noted that Syria has responded favorably to the sincere efforts seeking to push the peace process toward its desired goal, represented in the establishment of the just and comprehensive peace in the region. He said: Syria has always supported the need to provide an effective mechanism to expedite the peace process on the basis of a clear, objective, and sound course that will tackle the substantive and basic matters on the foundations, principles, and the resolutions approved by the international community.

In his speech, the general underlined the national and pan-Arab principles advocated by Syria which are represented in complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 4 June 1967 lines, withdrawal from southern Lebanon, and its refusal to abandon any of its inalienable rights. He said: Syria will confront with full confidence all developments and will not allow any force to encroach on its sovereignty, rights, or dignity.

The general also spoke about the policy of arrogance and evasion which Israel is pursuing to evade the requirements of peace through its well-known methods of maneuvering in the negotiations and its aggressive and suppressive acts, as it is doing against the brothers in southern Lebanon.

At the conclusion of his speech, the general urged the brother formation fighters to observe vigilance, caution, and constant preparedness to foil any attempt by the enemies to undermine our steadfastness. He also urged them to embody the eternal slogan: Victory or martyrdom.

The general and his companions then left the formation command.

Lebanon: 1995 Islamic Resistance Operations Detailed

96AA0137B Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 29 Dec 95
pp 4-5

[Article by Hanan al-Husayni Shirri: "852 Operations and 490 of the Enemy Wounded; Many Positions Liberated"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Southern Lebanon is the only active front; the Zionists admit it.

The settlement issues are suspended, and there are no Zionist solutions to the daily attrition inflicted by the

Islamic Resistance on the Israeli army of occupation. This attrition is not only of this army's capabilities; it is attrition of the outer limits of the endurance of the population of the Zionist entity. The enemy government, with all the violence of terrorism it employs and with full U.S. support, is unable to strike effectively against the resistance.

This is, in summary, the other face of 1995, radiant with the light of jihad and martyrdom, and the wide battlefields of honor, from the depths of the occupied south to the borders of al-Biq'a' al-Gharbi. The fathers of the people now know that its honor is in the Resistance.

Attrition of Options

This question is asked with anguish in the Zionist entity:

"What is happening to Israel in southern Lebanon?"

Yitzhaq Rabin, the head of the enemy government, is dead, and the answer to this question lies in many options, none of which the successor government can adopt.

Another invasion would mean breaking the greatest taboo in "Israel" since 1982, given the painful memories of Lebanon, and the enemy whose leadership admitted that Hizballah enjoys wide popular support cannot permit Israel to get bogged down with a quarter million new people, to expand the "security belt," in the words of Uri Orr.

The second option is withdrawal from southern Lebanon, or the "security zone" — as "Israel" calls it — and the most widespread comment made in the Zionist entity is that 'Israel' would in that case appear to have been expelled by force."

Is any other option left?

It is to stop Resistance activity and disarm Hizballah.

American and Zionist Delusions

For years, U.S. diplomacy has been tirelessly active with a single objective: extricating the enemy from its predicament in southern Lebanon and putting pressure on the Lebanese Government to stop the armed actions the resistance was mounting against the occupation forces in the south.

This year, U.S. insolence reached the point of the U.S. Administration launching its most violent attack on Lebanon, blaming the violence the Israeli Army perpetrates against civilians in southern villages and al-Biq'a' al-Gharbi on "Lebanese parties," and claiming that "the Israeli Government is defending its soldiers from terrorism in southern Lebanon."

Blockades

The enemies' cries to disarm the resistance have been in vain. They attempted to outflank it and to harm Lebanese civilians in the liberated villages and regions, to apply pressure against the people to dissuade the Islamic Resistance from its jihad.

With the beginning of 1995, Zionist warships imposed a coastal blockade on fisherman at the port of Tyre, and which was subsequently extended to the limit of the shore south of Sidon. When the coastal blockade entered its fourth month, in June, there was talk of a "coastal strip" the fishermen would be forbidden from entering.

The destruction of homes and the targeting of civilians in their cars, houses, and workplaces, a treacherous method the Zionists use to harm our combatant people's steadfastness.

There were, in 1995, savage attacks carried out by the Zionist air power, some of which were aimed at the depths of the liberated areas. These raids were concentrated in the second half of the year; there were more than 55 of them, and they killed a large number of innocent victims.

The Real Battle: Amnon Shahak in a Predicament

The assassination of Yitzhaq Rabin on 4 November and his absence from the political and military scene in "Israel" was not the only shock to rattle the Zionist entity. After every defeat the Israeli army suffered in southern Lebanon, voices were raised loudly in the Knesset, shrieking, "We must attack! We must strike!" However, the echo died away between operations of the Islamic Resistance against the occupation forces and their agents in the occupied border region. Some of these specific operations were aimed at security patrols and the occupiers' high-ranking leaders.

Let us begin with Major "Malik," commander of the Zionist 80th Regiment. He was killed on 15 May by an explosive charge planted by the Islamic Resistance on the Bint Jubayl-al-Tiri road. This officer was one of an investigating committee conducting a study in the area in which the Bint Jubayl suicide operation took place.

On 17 September, the mujahedin succeeded in penetrating the occupation forces' security measures in the border strip, and planted a large explosive charge on the road to Marj 'Uyun. When the Zionist enemy's intelligence motorcade passed by, the charge exploded on target, and there were a large number of injuries. The Zionist army's Chief of Staff was saved from death by a miracle, according to the foreign wire services at the time, describing the presence of Amnon Shahak and

'Amiram Levin, commander of the northern region, just one meter away from the site of the explosion.

This daring operation provoked a wave of unease inside Israel's security services, over the Islamic Resistance's ability to achieve this sort of penetration time after time. Actually, despite all the precautions taken in the region, the Islamic Resistance continued to aim its blows at gaps in the enemy's security.

The Marj 'Uyun operation, which took place on 29 November, confirmed that. The operation was planned in no more than 48 hours, and was carried out on the boulevard leading to the Marj 'Uyun barracks when the Israeli security motorcade passed by.

Salah the Martyr...and the Living Martyr

On April 25, the Islamic Resistance carried out a suicide operation deep within the occupied area. Its mujahid hero was Salah Ghandur.

The most daring Islamic Resistance operation since 1989: that was how commentators described the Bint Jubayl suicide operation targeting Center 17 in Bint Jubayl and a Zionist convoy consisting of two Commandcar half-track personnel carriers, each carrying at least six troops. They were about to enter Building 17, which was historically a center for the occupation forces' command, intelligence, and "civilian administration."

The nature of the operation and the site targeted were an indication of the specific attack carried out by Salah Ghandur after he successfully got through all the many checkpoints, screens and guard posts, to reach the main gate of the targeted building. Prior to this, he had acquired comprehensive and detailed information about the movements of enemy soldiers at the target selected for the operation. Salah chose the moment of the Zionist convoy's arrival from occupied Palestine, as it approached Center 17, to blow up the booby-trapped car. The explosion causes nearly 30 enemy casualties.

The Islamic Resistance's Bint Jubayl suicide operation achieved a great victory for morale, by reaffirming the ability to possess a suicide weapon surpassing all the enemy's technological progress and supremacy. This was the way the Zionist reactions interpreted the suicide operation. The most striking comment came from the Zionist television's correspondent for military affairs; he described the scene of the operation as "glaring testimony reaching into every Israeli home."

From the martyr Salah Ghandur to the "living martyr" who launched, from a distance of a mere 1,500 meters from the borders of Palestine, a daring attack against an Israeli convoy whose members were totally paralyzed

after they were trapped in an Islamic Resistance ambush on the Dayr-Mimas road.

On July 6, 1995, the resistance detonated 16 explosive charges in four stages near a convoy consisting of six Reo trucks, three Commandcar personnel carriers, and two jeeps. It resulted in several casualties in the convoy. After that, the "living martyr" left the site and started throwing hand grenades and firing bullets at the wrecked trucks. He succeeded in easily traversing the road among the trucks without meeting any resistance from the terrified soldiers. This freedom fighter returned safely after carrying out this brave operation, vowing to achieve martyrdom in a future operation. He was called "the living martyr."

War of the Crossing Points

In 1995, the area the Israelis call the "security zone" experienced radical military changes in the Resistance's favor. After that, the Resistance succeeded in stepping up its blows by creating deep and wide security gaps in the wall of the "security zone" which it was hard for the Israelis to plug.

The attack concentrated on various positions and crossing points in the occupied strip moved the Zionist enemy to abandon its forward positions, to create rear positions in their place, or to eliminate them entirely.

The sites abandoned by the occupation forces and their agents included Tallusah and al-Shawmariyah.

Even so, the attack the Resistance mounted on the position and crossing point of Kafr Hunah, and the wounding of the crossing point officer in one operation, made agents have second thoughts about service at this crossing point, so the enemy closed it in April and no longer maintained a post there. It opened the crossing point only at the end of the year, and had a party for the occasion.

The Bayt Yahun crossing point remained closed for 70 days after an Islamic Resistance attack on 3 October, in which three agents working with the "civilian administration" were killed; it was reopened at the end of the year.

The most important achievement on this front was the Islamic resistance's specific attack on the Bisri position and crossing point on 1 November. Total control was established over the crossing point after the Hizballah flag was raised over it, and the killing of three agents and wounding of two. This operation caused widespread unease in the ranks of the Lahdist militia in the Jazzin strip, which compelled the Zionist enemy to evacuate the Bisri crossing point and close it for good.

Crisis of Confidence

In 1995 we witnessed a striking development in "Israel's" relationship with its collaborationist militia. For the first time, the agents openly attacked the policy of the Zionist government in its meetings and through its media; this underlined the existence of a genuine crisis of confidence between the Zionist entity and the militia of agents.

It was the purpose of the Islamic Resistance's specific attacks, which struck at the very heart of the occupation, to create this deep fracture between the two sides; thereafter, the difference in their positions regarding the feasibility of remaining in the occupied border strip was clear. These differences were reflected in Zionist officials' repeated statements about failures in Lahd's army. The remarks of some members of the enemy government about withdrawals and conditions for a settlement with Lebanon deeply enraged the agents, because they have seen the insincerity of the promises they have heard from the occupation authorities.

Furthermore, militia members have found that the Zionists want them to pay the price of their, the Zionists', mistakes. This became clear to them when the enemy attempted to wash their hands of the crimes and aggressions its forces have committed against civilians in the liberated villages, because it found that the Islamic Resistance's reaction to these aggressions was very strong, even hitting their settlements. Thus they judged that blaming Lahd's army for these deeds might save them, as they were always the target of counterattacks, which would allow them, in the long run, to carry on with their crimes.

Interpretations vary, and the agents were enraged at this Zionist "underhandedness," and there was widespread confusion among their ranks with which the enemy government could not deal, so they brought its president and several ministers to the occupied area to calm conditions and reassure the Lahdist militia.

The agents' frustration was translated, on the ground, into desertions into the liberated areas, misunderstandings among the agent officials, chiefly Riyad al-'Abdallah and 'Aql Hashim. There was widespread resentment in the ranks of the enlisted men and those conscripted for compulsory service in the Lahd army, especially in the Jazzin area, in which the people expressed their anger at what was going on by ringing the church bells.

On 3 June, agent Joseph Abu-'Arraj, who was a squad commandant at the occupiers' position near the town of Balat in the eastern strip, was killed. The incident was a profound shock to the occupation command and its

militias because the killer of this agent was a conscript belonging to the same squad, named Haytham As'ad.

These clashes among the agents themselves have occurred throughout the occupied area: in al-Hasbani, al-Tayyibah, Tayr Harfa, 'Aytrun, and other areas.

This is what motivated the enemy to declare that the Lahd militia was under the direct control of its officers.

The al-'Ayshiyah and al-Qutrani Operations: Shock, and the Pullout of the Golani Brigade

On the 19 June, the Islamic Resistance carried out the al-Zaffatah-al-Dabshah operation, which was the strongest blow aimed at the Israeli Army up to that time, which ended, according to the Zionists' own admission, with three Zionists dead and three wounded.

After the success of the resistance's ambush, Israeli Army Chief of Staff headed to the scene of the operation, and there announced a warning saying: "We will strike at the men of Hizballah wherever we find them."

Amnon Shahak did not remain silent. In October, he was compelled to acknowledge the extent of Hizballah's operations. He said, "We have found no solution allowing us to eliminate Hizballah from the map of Lebanon."

This remark came after the Islamic Resistance's strongest strike of the year — after the suicide attack in Bint Jubayl — when its mujahedin succeeded in finishing off two groups of the Golani Brigade in two operations within two days of one another.

The first operation was carried out in the al-Ayshiyah area and resulted in the death of three soldiers, and wounded six others. The second took place in the al-Qutrani area and led to the death of six Zionist soldiers and the wounding of two. A few days later, one of those wounded in the operations died, so the number of dead was raised to 10 soldiers of the Golani Brigade.

Given the horror of the disaster, the occupying soldiers were struck with fear and terror. The enemy was forced to withdraw the Golani Brigade from the occupied border strip, substituting another brigade. This was described in the Hebrew press as "the cruel shock" to which Hizballah subjected "Israel," representing, as well, "harsh mental pressure" on the Zionist government.

The Katyusha and the Balance of Power

Defending the security of civilians has been the motto of the Islamic Resistance since it was launched, and it has been able to play its role in this area with the use of new bases in the war in order to consolidate its popular base.

"One by one," the resistance announced its natural response to every Zionist aggression threatening the civilians safe in the liberated villages, so that its blows would be aimed at the Zionist interior after every attack of this kind.

In 1995, we saw the multiplication of these massacres perpetrated against our oppressed but steadfast village people by the occupying forces, from the massacre of Kafr Rumman at the beginning of the year, to the assassination of the mujahid Rida Yasin in a helicopter attack aimed at the interior of the liberated areas on the public road between the towns of Dirdghayya and al-Humayri, on March 31.

April, too, was soaked in innocent blood spilled on the soil of the south in several villages, among them Kafra, Jarju', and Shaqra, where most of the victims were young children.

On 9 July, mourning filled the al-Nabatiyah area and its villages after the massacre which targeted citizens in the town of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa. Three children of the Budayr family were killed: Jihan, 16; Sylvana, 11; and the child Zakariya, 4; six others were wounded.

In revenge for all the innocent lives that were extinguished, the Islamic Resistance struck at the northern settlements in the Zionist entity. Rockets fell, dozens at a time, on the settler compounds in Nahariyya, Qiryat Shemona, Misgav 'Am, and Western Galilee and the Galilee panhandle, causing a great number of injuries among the settlers.

The conclusion the enemy drew from its reckless behavior in southern Lebanon was that "if 'Israel' wants to maintain normal life in the northern part of its state as a high priority, then it must be ready to curtail the volume of its operations against Hizballah."

The Failure of Military Technology

Amnon Shahak says, in describing the nature of the ongoing confrontation between the occupying forces and the mujahedin of the Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon, that "the truth is that the Israeli soldiers are very much afraid of Hizballah."

This remark leads us to a discussion of the high fighting standard the mujahedin of the Islamic Resistance have attained. They have succeeded in overcoming the important obstacle of the enemy's superiority in material capabilities, and now inflict heavy losses in lives and equipment on the battlefield.

Helicopters, air weaponry, Katyusha guided missiles, and other advanced military materiel did not succeed in creating a spirit of courage among the Zionist soldiers,

who fled from face to face battle with resistance fighters in southern Lebanon and al-Biqā' al-Gharbi.

The mujahedin also succeeded in overcoming the enemy's techniques, which sought to defuse the resistance's charges.

In 1995, resistance mujahedin thwarted all the Israeli Army's attempts to advance toward the liberated villages. They mounted many ambushes and surprise attacks on Zionist commandos who tried to gain any security or military penetration of the Islamic Resistance's positions to boost the morale of the occupying soldiers and the agent militia in the occupied area.

Gift and Continuity

The courageous resistance, which motivated its mujahidin to the summit of sacrifice in defense of its people, and to protect Islam, has written its commitment to continue its mission in the blood of its members, who dedicated themselves to God in their lives and in their jihad. God chose them as torches to light the way for the Islamic Resistance, and to strengthen the hearts of the mujahedin, the only guardians of the blood of the martyrs who preceded them, those faithful to the eternal legacy of the lord of the martyrs of the Islamic Resistance, Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi (may God sanctify his secret!), whose chief legacy was and will remain: "Uphold the resistance."

[Begin box]

Positions From Which the Enemy Has Withdrawn

On the night of 17 January, the explosion of the Tallusah position and its total destruction.

April 21: Evacuation of the Kafr Hunah position, with the crossing gate moved from the Kafr Hunah triangle closer to the town of 'Aramti.

June 8: Evacuation of the al-Shawmariyah position.

October 3: The closing of the Bayt Yahun crossing after the killing of three members of the occupation's "civilian administration" in an Islamic Resistance operation.

November 21: Evacuation of the Bisri crossing after an Islamic Resistance operation on this crossing on 1 November, and the raising of the Hizballah flag over the targeted position.

Table: Resistance Operations in 1995

Month	Total Operations	Islamic Resistance Operations
January	78	57
February	71	62
March	85	63
April	93	64
May	84	64
June	75	59
July	59	42
August	78	49
September	75	40
October	57	44
November	81	64
December	66	51
Total	852 (as published)	659

Losses of the Enemy and Its Agents in 1995

	Zionist Soldiers and Citizens		Agent Militia		Total Casualties	
	Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded	Enemy	Agents
Enemy Sources	29	167	42	90	196	132
Resistance Sources	62	203	72	153	265	225

Note: These statistics do not include unannounced casualties.

[end box]

Lebanon: Hizballah Views Israeli Army

96AA0137A Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 29 Dec 95 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Some Offspring of the Resistance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was an incident with grave implications which befell the Zionist army of occupation in the south; the enemy's military command could not

cover it up because of its extreme symbolic importance. The Zionist newspaper MA'ARIV was the first to give an account of the event, based on Zionist military sources. It was subsequently confirmed by a military spokesman. On the night of 21-22 December, about 50 paratroopers of the occupation army abandoned their forward position in southern Lebanon in protest at their "poor treatment" at the hands of their commander, who, they alleged, had not granted them enough leave.

Undoubtedly, leaking the news in this way goes beyond merely journalistic aims and sheds light on the problem of discipline the Zionist army is facing, especially as enemy media put at the top of their priorities the principle of not defiling the reputation of the Zionist army at a time when various forces must rally around the achievement of a settlement on the best terms.

The event was unusual, so much so that it moved a senior military official (whose name was not disclosed) to say that secretly and totally abandoning a position on an active front was "a very grave matter, absolutely unprecedented, and totally unacceptable."

What was the extreme danger, since the soldiers later returned—it was announced—to their post, after military commanders on the ground caught them, and since the nub of the problem was "a protest at the granting leave"? And why did this not happen in the Golan, for example, or the West Bank or the Gaza Strip, where Arab land has been occupied over very long periods of time?

This is an issue that goes beyond "leave," which is an indisputable issue in every army acting in accordance with defined and unbending military regulations. Because it goes beyond this issue, Zionist military censors released the news after adding "emendations" to it so that it appeared to be a joke and a danger at the same time, making it clear that Zionist soldiers enjoy the distinction of freedom of action and of opinion to some extent.

Let us put this exceptional incident in its objective context to make it possible to see new, more explanatory elements: Zionist soldiers in southern Lebanon are

subject to harsh psychological pressure as the result of their constant vulnerability to the operations of the mujahedin of the Islamic Resistance, which hamper their movements and makes them behave with unease and anxiety. The enemy's leadership has made intensive efforts by using psychologists and granting leave and material bonuses to the soldiers in southern Lebanon, in order to compensate for the mental hardships with which they have to deal. This truth was not hidden from the Zionist media, which ran a television documentary a few months ago about soldiers who hid in the bushes, awaiting death at the hands of Hizballah fighters.

Because of this tension factor, there have been confrontations between Zionist soldiers, as happened in al-Qantarah when four soldiers were killed and a number of others injured; and we still remember how Yitzhaq Rabin reprimanded his military commanders for their soldiers' abandoning the post of al-Dabshah one year ago when it was under attack by the mujahedin of the Islamic Resistance, promising them the most severe punishment.

But nothing has changed much since that date. On the contrary, the state of disintegration and weak discipline is increasing to an extent that frightens the Zionist leadership in line with the mounting number and ferocity of the resistance operations.

The soldiers' total, secret desertion from their forward position can be understood in this realistic context. Zionist distortion of the whole affair was not complete without the sentencing of 31 of the 50 soldiers to 56 days in prison — bearing in mind that enemy sources had first spoken of the possibility of 15-year prison sentences being imposed.

There are grounds for believing that publicizing the desertion and its conclusion in this manner may be attributed to the fear of a renewal of the domestic demand for an early withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Numerous former military men have called for this; the call was adopted by Zionist politicians, who reaffirmed it after the famous al-'Ayshiyyah and al-Qutrani operations.

Syria: Ba'thist on Syrian, Opposition Rejection of Husayn Kamil*MM2602145396 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Feb 96 p 3*

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani in Damascus: "Syrian Ba'th Official Says: Damascus Did Not Deal With Kamil for These Reasons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An official in the ruling Socialist Ba'th party in Syria has confirmed that during his stay in Jordan, Husayn Kamil, the Iraqi president's murdered son-in-law, had contacts with Damascus and tried to travel there, but that the matter "was delayed" because he was "part of the Iraqi regime" and because his defection to Jordan was "part of an Israeli plan." He added that the Iraqi opposition refrained from cooperating with him [Kamil] for the same reasons, and because it "feared" him.

In an interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member Fadil al-Ansari, an Iraqi who has lived in the Syrian capital since his split from the Iraqi regime in the seventies, said that Husayn Kamil tried more than once to hold contacts with Syria and to travel there, but that Syria delayed the issue because of its assessment of Husayn Kamil's nature, his role as a member of the Iraqi regime, and his effective contribution to the regime's crimes and dealings.

He added: "Syria believed that Husayn Kamil's arrival in Jordan was part of a plan, in its view an Israeli plan, to use Jordan as a means and a link through which to control Iraq, which the Israeli finance minister described as the market of the century." That is why Syria dragged its feet with regard to receiving Kamil and having dealings with him.

On why the Iraqi opposition refrained from dealing with Kamil, al-Ansari said: The opposition knew that he was an essential part of the ruling regime in Iraq, in fact the true ruler after (President) Saddam Husayn. The opposition had doubts about him, in view of the fact that he and his brother were accompanied by their wives, as the opposition knows that one of them is the closest to her father's (the Iraqi president's) heart out of all his sons and daughters. This raised some fears and reinforced the belief that the defection was a huge game. This was reinforced by the fact that Husayn Kamil made proposals which were very similar to the Iraqi regime's proposals and did not disavow the crimes that he committed in Iraq. With regard to the Iraqi opposition's current situation, al-Ansari said that although it lacks a unified plan and its elements lack unity, it is currently in fine shape, with serious

attempts, based on common denominators, being made at grouping it in order to confront the next phase.

Syria: Iran's Habibi Holds Talks With Khaddam*LD2702115996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] First Vice President Hasan Habibi who has travelled to Syria in order to take part in the seventh joint Iran-Syria committee, arrived in Damascus at noon today. According to the dispatched correspondent of the Central News Unit in Damascus, Mr. Habibi, who is heading a senior political and economic delegation to Syria, was welcomed officially by 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of Syria. Our correspondent in Damascus reported on the start of bilateral talks:

[Begin correspondent recording] Our country's first vice president and Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam began the first round of their official talks. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and a number of other relevant officials were present at this meeting. The two sides reviewed relations between the two countries and discussed the latest regional developments, especially recent events. Mr. Habibi described the Islamic Republic of Iran's position toward the problems of the Middle East and stressed the need for the improvement of mutual relations. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the fraternal and friendly country of Syria. He said: Recent developments have strengthened the positions of the two sides further and enabled them to agree on a joint strategy [last word in English].

The talks are still in progress. [end recording]

Syria: U.S. Urged To Convince Israel To Respond to Peace*JN2602171396 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 26 Feb 96*

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two days from now, the Syrian and Israeli delegations will return to Maryland to begin the fifth round of negotiations under U.S. sponsorship and with the participation of the U.S. secretary of state to activate the peace process and push it toward the hoped-for objective. But if we look at the Israeli officials' statements, we can see that the peace process has turned into a bargaining card in the current Israeli elections battle among the various parties and blocs vying to enter the Knesset either with a majority that would enable them to impose their policies and translate their platforms, or with any number that would enable

them to make their voice heard and hard to ignore when the course that will be followed by the future government is set.

Undoubtedly, when the peace process loses its sanctity and turns into a bargaining card, as is the case in Israel now, the hope for a possible progress in the negotiations diminishes, thus undermining any hope for the activation of the peace process and the achievement of peace. In light of the statements of all political forces in Israel, it is obvious that nothing indicates that the next round of negotiations may differ from the previous ones or that it will yield positive results that could be considered an indication that Israel has given up its evasive methods or beating about the bush, or that it has stopped planting obstacles and mines along the path of the peace process. At any rate, we will not make any premature judgments. Perhaps the next round of negotiations may result in something which may indicate that Israel has become convinced that it is impossible to deflect Syria from its clear and explicit stand. Under no circumstances shall Syria accept to relinquish an inch of its land or cede any of its rights. There will be no bargaining in this regard. Israel should develop the conviction that the shortest way to peace with Syria passes through UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and compliance with the U.S. initiative.

The world's attention is focused on Maryland in expectation of the possible results of the fifth round of Syrian-Israeli negotiations. The world hopes that the U.S. Administration, which is sponsoring and taking part in the negotiations, would through its weight convince Israel of the need to respect the will of international legitimacy and to stop tampering with the fate of peace and ignoring the bases and foundations without which no peace can be built and maintained.

Undoubtedly, the United States has enough logical means to convince Israel to respond to the call of peace in order to turn the leaf of the past with all its tragedies and turn a new leaf of peace and security for the peoples of the region and all peoples of the world.

Syria: U.S. Urged To Play 'Active, Firm' Role in Talks

JN2702123796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 27 Feb 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH says no one disputes the fact that Israel is fully responsible for the continuation of the whirlpool of violence and chaos in the region and for the faltering of

international efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: Israel refuses to make any clear and public commitment to give up its ambitions of control, hegemony, and occupation of Arab land. Israel is making feverish efforts to empty the peace process of its content by proposing alternative and distorted concepts that focus on partial and incomplete settlements. Such settlements have only intensified the feeling of oppression and failure in the region.

The paper says: Israel has continued its barbaric attacks on civilians and defenseless cities and villages in southern Lebanon. Israel is providing a very ugly example of systematic state terrorism, in violation of the simplest principles of international law and human rights.

AL-BA'TH asserts that what happened in Jerusalem and Ashqelon the day before yesterday is a practical reflection of Israeli practices during this period. Despite all this, Israel still has a chance to change its attitude and engage seriously in the peace process, since the Maryland talks on the Syrian track resume tomorrow. Will Israel seize this unique opportunity or will it prove once again that it is still a settlement-based, expansionist entity that adheres to its ambitions and thus kill any hope for peace?

AL-THAWRAH urges the U.S. Administration to play an active and strong role in making Israel comply with the foundations of the peace process.

In a commentary headlined "What Is Required of the Maryland Talks," AL-THAWRAH asserts that a true and viable peace can only be based on Syria's firm principles. So far, Israel's declared position dims hopes of any progress in the talks. If there is new hope, Israel will never be its source. Israel's new stands have always been more obstructive actions. The Israelis are once again talking about the importance of early-warning stations on the Golan. This does not inspire optimism that Israel might act positively toward peace. The fact that the Israeli position at the talks has not changed, according to statements by Israeli officials, does not give any clue that the talks will be any different from previous rounds.

AL-THAWRAH adds: In this situation, everybody will expect a firm U.S. position that makes Israel engage positively in the peace process. The only hope lies in this expected U.S. position.

The paper concludes: We are about to begin a new round of the Maryland talks. We must note that it is not enough for the U.S. secretary of state to take part in the talks. The United States must play an active and

firm role this time to make Israel announce a specific position that asserts its commitment to the foundations of the peace process after four years of maneuvering and hesitation. Only then can the Maryland talks lead to the establishment of peace.

Syria: 'Palestine Broadcast' Commentary Views Israeli Bombings

JN2602175496 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Unattributed commentary; from the "Palestine Broadcast" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] On one day, and within one hour, occupied Palestine yesterday witnessed two martyrdom-seeking operations. The two operations, even according to Israeli sources, were in response to the assassination of struggler Yahya 'Ayyash, nicknamed the engineer. He had been accused by the Zionist occupation authorities of masterminding the previous martyrdom-seeking operations.

The two operations resulted in the killing or wounding of over 100 Israelis. They made the Israelis feel insecure despite the so-called peace agreements signed between the Israeli Government and the self-rule authority. This is because this iniquitous peace is unacceptable to the Palestinian Arab people and their effective forces. All Palestinian parties and factions oppose this peace, except for the Oslo team; that is, the self-rule authority, which hastened to take measures against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists. Hamas claimed responsibility for the two operations. Despite these measures, neither the Israeli Government and its occupation troops which are still deployed in the West bank and Gaza Strip, nor the limited self-rule authority's police have the ability to prevent the Palestinian people from struggling to liberate their national soil and protect their children against the crimes of Israeli terrorism. The Israeli authorities imposed similar measures following the assassination of struggler Yahya 'Ayyash, believing that the danger would disappear after commemorating 'Ayyash 40 days after his martyrdom.

Observers believe that the occupation authorities and the self-rule authority do not want to understand that tension can only be removed when there is a just, comprehensive peace that restores to the Arabs of Palestine their

legitimate national rights, led by their rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian national soil.

Syria: Paper Criticizes Turkish Anti-Syria Charges

JN2502100996 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Feb 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, TISHRIN reacts to some Turkish media's false charges and anti-Syria campaigns. The paper says that the tension the Turkish crises become, so the anti-Syria campaigns escalate. The paper believes that the objective behind that is to hold Damascus responsible for the Turkish domestic problems, instead of seriously seeking to address the roots of these problems and find appropriate solutions to them.

TISHRIN stresses that Syria is very careful not to interfere in Turkey's domestic affairs. Syria has done nothing to harm relations between the two neighborly countries, and sought to resolve the water problem in a manner that conforms to good-neighborly relations and ensures the rights of every party in accordance with international law and conventions. The paper says that labeling Syria as terrorist is not new. Israel invented and promoted this charge to blemish Damascus' reputation and affect its stands.

TISHRIN adds that those who promote this false charge have reaped nothing but failure despite the strenuous efforts they exerted. This is evidenced by the fact that despite all these disinformation campaigns, Syria's weight and status have increased and its crucial role in influencing regional events has been enhanced.

TISHRIN adds: Therefore, renewing the known charges of terrorism against Syria is unconvincing and will not achieve the aspirations of some anti-Damascus parties. The paper stresses that Syria wishes to improve relations with Turkey, and is exerting every appropriate effort toward this end. At the same time, Syria is careful to obtain all its water rights in accordance with international law. Syria will not be affected by the extortionist campaigns aimed to sow more elements of distrust in its relations with Turkey.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Hezb-e Eslami Says Government Ready To Make Concessions

LD2602174396 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kabul administration is ready to concede the undeniable rights of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], Sayd Solayman Shah, acting consul of the Kabul administration in Peshawar, has said. He said: Differences between Hezb-e Eslami and the Kabul administration are being settled. It is hoped that the past four years' differences between them shall be resolved very soon. He said: Hezb-e Eslami is a jihadi party, and the Kabul administration is ready to concede the party's undeniable rights. He added: As a result of an understanding between the Kabul administration and Hezb-e Eslami, the Kabul-Jalalabad highway will be kept open for all traffic, including UN convoys.

Afghanistan: Kabul Radio Says Taliban Seek Trial of General Dostam

LD2402204696 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Taliban group has called for General Dostam to be put on trial. [Words indistinct] Dostam's trial has been demanded by Mollah Ehsanollah, a senior Taliban member. The Taliban say that General 'Abdol-Rashid [Dostam] fought the Muslim nation of Afghanistan during [words indistinct]. By putting him on trial, they say, the wishes of millions of martyrs and the disabled in Afghanistan will come true.

Afghanistan: Ahmad Mas'ud Accuses Pakistan of Involvement in Afghan War

LD2602204896 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has told the French newspaper LE FIGARO that Pakistan is involved in the Afghan civil war. According to the Pakistani PPI agency, the commander of the Shura-e Nezar [Supervisory Council] said in an interview with LE FIGARO that Pakistan has embarked on creating problems in Afghanistan through the Taliban group.

He said: Pakistan wants to achieve two goals by its recent act [as heard]. First, to topple the Kabul Government, and then prepare the ground for trade with Central Asia. He added: Pakistan has opened branches of its banks and utility stores, and has installed telephone lines in Taliban-controlled areas.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud strongly accuses Pakistan of, first, training the Taliban on its soil, and now giving them all kinds of assistance.

Afghanistan: Deputy Foreign Minister Meets UNHCR Official

LD2602202296 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Abdorrahim Ghafurzai, the deputy foreign minister of Afghanistan, today met in his office Mr. [name indistinct], head of the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees], in Kabul. During the meeting, the head of the UNHCR office spoke about [word indistinct] in Kabul and about assistance to displaced people of Kabul who have left their homes because of rocket attacks. Esteemed Ghafurzai appreciated UNHCR aid to the refugees and insisted on further aid from the agency, taking into account the urgent need of the people of Kabul for humanitarian aid.

Afghanistan: Government Supporters Clash in Samangan Province

LD2602173596 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Two people died and another was wounded in a clash between two Kabul administration commanders. A Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] source in Samangan Province reported to us by radio that on 24 February a heavy clash took place between two Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] commanders, 'Abdurrahman and 'Abdol Qayum, in Roi-Doat District. As a result, besides much material loss, two of Commander Qayum's armed men were killed and another was wounded. The source added that the real cause of the clash is unknown. Eyewitnesses, however, said that the fighting erupted when Commander Qayum decided to disarm Commander 'Abdurrahman. The source said that the fighting was continuing and it was possible that the number of the dead and wounded had risen.

Afghanistan: Taliban Said Preparing To Capture Eastern Provinces

LD2602203496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1230 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In an interview with the Pashto program of Iranian radio, an informed source said: Talks are continuing between the delegations of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society], and [President] Rabbani's delegation has visited Sarowbi several times for talks on paving the way for the formation of a coalition government.

The source, who did not want to be identified said: A secret council of the Taliban has decided against holding talks with any group either openly or secretly. This council has also resolved to disarm all jihadi parties in Afghanistan. The source added: The Taliban have decided to attack Nangarhar in order to capture Afghanistan's eastern provinces. However, influential commanders in the Nangarhar Council — Haji 'Abdol Qadir, Saz Nur, Haji Zaman, Hazrat 'Ali, and Sayd Mohammad Pahlawan — have formed a coalition against the probable Taliban attack to give a crushing response to the latter's offensive.

Some observers are of the opinion that the purpose of the expected Taliban attack is that on the one hand, the Taliban will be able to block an important section of Peshawar-Kabul highway by capturing Jalalabad and on the other hand, the attack will enable them to capture three more provinces. And lastly, they will have raised their political profile due to the existence of several international agencies, including the UN offices in the city.

According to some observers, if Hezb-e Islami forces give those commanders sufficient support, it will be difficult for the Taliban to capture the eastern provinces. The Taliban are mostly from Afghanistan's southern and southwestern provinces, so it is not clear how people in the eastern provinces will react to their attack.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: BNP Worker Shot During Demonstration Against Opposition

BK2702043696 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 27 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leaders and workers of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] yesterday brought out a procession in Dhaka city against anarchy and disruptive policy of the opposition. BSS quoting a party press release said a BNP worker, Yusuf, received a bullet injury by the opposition activists near Naya Bazaar. He was admitted into Dhaka Medical College Hospital. State minister for youth and sports Sadeq Hussain strongly condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible.

A big public meeting was also held at Chowk Bazaar organized by the Lalbagh thana [police station area] BNP against hartal [strike], blockade, and anarchy. The labor and manpower minister and Dhaka city BNP president, Mir Shawkat Ali, strongly (?criticized opposition) political parties for their attempt to foil the democracy and destroy the country's economy through their negative programs.

Bangladesh: Opposition Figure Arrested; Five Killed in Violence

BK2702104696 Hong Kong AFP in English 1035 GMT 27 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Feb 27 (AFP) — Tofael Ahmed, a powerful leader of the main opposition Awami League, was arrested Tuesday [27 February] under the tough Special Powers Act, police sources said.

Earlier Tuesday, Abdul Kader Mollah, a senior leader of the opposition fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party, was arrested, party officials said.

Ahmed was the sixth opposition leader to be arrested since Sunday, when two Awami League and two Jatiya Party leaders were seized under the same act, which permits detention without charges for up to 120 days.

The sources said Ahmed, who went into hiding Friday hours before the police started rounding up opposition leaders, was picked up at a relative's house.

Mollah was arrested from his home, party officials said.

Because of the arrests, the opposition extended a three-day nationwide shutdown, which has left five people killed and more than 400 injured.

The strike, which was due to end midnight Monday, was extended until 2:00 p.m. (0800 GMT) Wednesday.

Bangladesh: 2 Killed, 100 Injured as Opposition Extends Strike

BK2602125796 Hong Kong AFP in English 1245 GMT 26 Feb 96

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Feb 26 (AFP) — Bangladesh's opposition extended its three-day strike by another 38 hours Monday as at least two activists were killed and about 100 injured amid warnings from a senior minister of a government backlash against the mounting action.

An opposition spokesman announced Monday that the campaign of "non-cooperation" had been extended by 38 hours until 2:00 p.m. (0800 GMT) Wednesday to protest the arrest of four senior leaders under the Special Powers Act.

One activist was killed and 50 others injured as police and opposition factory workers fought a battle in the suburban industrial town of Tongi, witnesses and local reporters said.

In another incident in Sherpur district, in northern Bangladesh, one opposition activist was killed and 20

injured when unidentified people opened fire on a march of the main opposition Awami League, local residents said.

The three-day strike to bring down Prime Minister Khaleda Zia also coincided with a visit by US congressmen Bill Richardson, Democrat of New Mexico, who held talks with Zia and Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman. Talks are also scheduled with main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed later Monday.

Officials said their talks covered Bangladesh's current political crisis, but could not give immediate details. Richardson is on a fact-finding tour of South Asia.

Home-made bomb blasts went off as security forces patrolled the streets in the capital Monday and businesses, private offices and schools were closed as with previous strikes in anti-Zia campaign.

Few government employees reported for work, and rail, road and ferry services were also halted. In the later part of the day, some buses and taxis started operating, and shops cautiously opened their shutters.

Police fired tear gas to chase away bomb-throwing activists in a series of incidents in Dhaka, leaving some 30 injured, witnesses said.

Police also used tear gas and rubber bullets in Chittagong to break up armed opposition activists after a policeman was hit by a bullet, following a gun battle between government and opposition supporters.

About 400 people have been injured in clashes since the strike started Saturday.

Four senior opposition leaders were among dozens arrested at the weekend and a senior minister warned that the government could take a tougher line against the opposition campaign, now into its 22nd month.

"Every action has got (an) equal reaction," Communication Minister Oli Ahmed told The Independent newspaper.

Ahmed warned that "from now on all actions of the opposition will be responded" to because the opposition had ignored offers for a negotiated settlement.

However, he reaffirmed that the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was "ready to discuss any offer by the opposition parties to hold a fully contested elections."

Opposition parties want Zia to stand down so new elections can be held under a neutral caretaker administration. They have also demanded the annulment of the February 15 general elections which they boycotted.

Politicians have condemned the arrest of the opposition figures, but police sources said the hunt for opposition leaders who have gone into hiding continued.

Political observers said those arrested from the opposition Awami League and Jatiya Party were key strategists in the anti-government campaign. Most leaders of these parties have gone into hiding across Bangladesh.

Bangladesh: Violence During Opposition Agitation Reported

*BK2602164196 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network
in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The third day of the non-cooperation movement called by the main opposition parties passed off today with some violent incidents at Tongi and Sherpur. In the capital, police arrested 18 persons from different parts of the city on charges of violation of peace and discipline. A large number of rickshaws, good number of automobiles, including buses and minibuses, plied on the streets. Commercial establishments—including banks, insurance, and other organizations—operated business today. The attendance in government, semigovernment, and autonomous organizations was normal.

Three persons were killed, and more than 50 others injured in clashes between political activists and law enforcement agencies today in the opposition called non-cooperation movement. BSS [BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA], quoting railway sources, said police and BDR [Bangladesh Rifles] members opened fire on an unruly mob at Tongi railway stations when they operated [word indistinct] operating machine and set an empty wagon and two coaches on fire, resulting in the death of one person. Opposition activists earlier put a barricade on both ends of the Tongi railway station resisting the movement of trains. The situation was brought under control.

Two other deaths were reported from Sherpur as a result of clashes between rival political activists. In Chittagong, one policeman was injured in gunfire when rival political activists clashed and exchanged fire. At the Chittagong port, unloading of cargo and ship movements are going on as usual. State Minister for Shipping Shahjehan Seraj is now at the port to see for himself the operations there. Most of industries at the Chittagong export processing zone are in operation. All the ferries left the Chittagong station for different destinations on schedule. Flight operations of Chittagong Airport are continuing under revised schedule. A large number of rickshaws plied on the streets.

In Khulna, the situation passed off peacefully today. There is no report of any untoward incident. Production

in mills and factories remained normal. Activities at the Mangla port, including cargo handling, are also normal. The situation passed off peacefully in Rajshahi, Sylhet, and Rangpur.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal [students front of ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party] brought out a peace procession in the capital today which paraded the city streets. Speakers called upon the people to foil the conspiracies hatched by the unholy alliance of Awami League, Jatiya Party, and Jamaat-i-Islami against democratic and constitutional process in the country. They also called upon the opposition parties to shun the path of destruction and violence and come to the negotiating table to resolve the political problem.

Bangladesh: Normal Life Said 'Paralyzed' by Opposition Program

BK2402093496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Bangladesh, normal life has been paralyzed as the three-day noncooperation program called by the opposition began this morning. Markets, business establishments, banks, and educational institutions in the capital, Dhaka, closed. According to a report, police resorted to firing of tear gas shells to disperse violent opposition activists. At least 30 people were injured. The three main opposition parties — the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-i-Islami — have called the noncooperation movement to press for the cancellation of recently held general elections. The parties are also demanding dismissal of the Begum Zia government and holding of fresh elections within three months under a neutral caretaker government. They have also decided to lay a siege of the parliament building when the new house meets. However, no date has yet been fixed for the session.

India

India: Grenade Hurlled at Kashmiri Leader's Residence

BK2702014996 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the [All Parties] Hurriyat Conference leader, Abdul Ghani Lone, escaped an attempt on his life when unidentified gunmen hurled a grenade at his residence in Srinagar today. The grenade did not explode. The bomb squad later neutralized it. Elsewhere, in Kupwara District, six foreign militants were killed in an encounter with security forces at Shatgam. The security forces also scuttled Pakistan's fresh bid to pump arms and ammunition into the Kashmir Valley last evening.

India: Islamabad Radio Reports Attack on Kashmiri Leader's Home

BK2702113896 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 27 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, the house of a leader of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Khwaja Abdul Ghani Lone, in Srinagar was again attacked with hand grenades for the second time in 24 hours. However, he and other inmates of the house miraculously escaped unhurt. According to the KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE, two of the hand grenades hurled at the residence exploded in the courtyard, damaging the house. The report says the assailants also opened firing.

As already reported, a hand grenade was targeted at the bedroom of Khawaja Abdul Ghani Lone yesterday, but it did not explode. It may be recalled that the house of Khwaja Abdul Ghani Lone is surrounded by the troops and no one can move about there without their willing consent.

Meanwhile, in Srinagar, the tehsil amir [district chief] of Jammāt-i-Islami, Hajji Abdul Razak, was killed soon after being arrested by the Indian troops. Another young man was also killed in Havul locality of Srinagar, while the troops gunned down a chowkidar [security guard] of Rainbadi Hospital.

India: 'Powerful' Bomb Blast Kills 7 Paramilitary Troops in Assam

BK2602155496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Assam, at least seven jawans [personnel] of Uttar Pradesh Provincial Armed Constabulary were killed and another seriously injured in a powerful bomb explosion at (Bhortinali) in Kokrajhar District today. Official reports in Guwahati said suspected Bodo Security Force militants had planted the bomb on the road. The critically injured jawan has been admitted to hospital.

A massive manhunt has been launched to nab the culprits. In a similar incident, the militants had blown up a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] vehicle, killing five persons near Kokrajhar on last Wednesday.

India: Rao Says Congress Party's Hands Clean in Money Scam

BK2702130196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has reiterated that the law will take its own course in the hawala [illegal money transfer] cases and said that in his entire

career as a minister he never interfered in any way with any agency working under his ministry. Addressing the Executive Committee of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the party's conscience is clear and its hands are clean. He said that the Congress-I has provided a stable government to the country despite being in the minority. He said the opposition tried various devices during this term to destabilize the government, including the destruction of the Babri masjid [mosque], which they expected to result in the collapse of the government.

Members criticized the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] move to malign the prime minister through payoff allegations. They said the party would fight unitedly against the opposition attempts and will defeat their designs.

India: Security To Increase Along Border With Pakistan

BK2602062396 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The high-level meeting to review the security arrangements along the Indo-Pakistan border in Punjab has decided to strengthen the air defense and detection system on the border sector. Official sources said that the meeting in Amritsar expressed concern over the ground security arrangements along the Punjab border. The officials who attended the meeting also visited certain border areas of Amritsar sector.

India: Two 'Militants' Among 5 Killed in Kashmir; 10 Arrested

BK2402150396 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1430 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two militants of JKLF [Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front] outfit along with two pistols surrendered before the security forces in Srinagar yesterday. In militancy related incidents, five persons, including two militants, were killed in Kashmir valley during the last 24 hours. The killed militants included a foreign mercenary who was a self-styled group commander of a militant outfit. Security forces also arrested 10 militants and recovered five AK-type rifles, one sniper rifle, 23 grenades, and over 1 kg of narcotics in different search operations.

India: ROK President, Delegation Arrive on 4-Day Official Visit

BK2402143496 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South Korean president, Mr. Kim Yong-sam, arrived in New Delhi this afternoon

on a four-day official visit to India. He was accorded a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House]. The president, the prime minister, and several of his cabinet colleagues received the visiting dignitary.

Talking to newsmen, the South Korean president said his visit will substantially increase and expand the existing relations between the two countries. Mr. Kim is leading a 38-member business delegation. Our correspondent reports that during Mr. Kim's visit, both the countries will sign two agreements for setting up a joint commission and for protection of mutual investments.

India: President Sharma Fets South Korean Counterpart

BK2502130796 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0245 GMT 25 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India and South Korea have agreed to promote their common economic interests by effectively combining the natural resources and manpower in India and the capital and technology of South Korea. Speaking at an official banquet in New Delhi last night, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the visiting South Korean president, Mr. Kim Yong-sam, stressed that the economies of the two countries are complementary. They said this provided a solid base for closer bilateral relations. Mr. Kim hoped his visit would provide an impetus to finding new areas of cooperation. He lauded India for its contribution to world peace and stability as a leader of the Nonaligned Movement.

In his address, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma referred to Mr. Kim's attempt for the peaceful reunification of the Koreas and said the realization of this objective will contribute to peace in the region.

India: Kim Yong-sam Reflects on 3 Years as President of ROK

SK2502091196 Seoul YONHAP in English
0906 GMT 25 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Feb. 25 (YONHAP) — South Korean President Kim Yong-sam said that during the remaining two years of his term, he would lay a solid footing for a peaceful reunification of Korea, while cementing the national security system to get over any provocations of North Korea.

He was speaking at a lunch he hosted in the Asoka Hotel here for South Korean correspondents covering his visit to India on Sunday, the third anniversary of his swearing-in as the first civilian president in more than three decades.

Noting that North Korea is in a worrying situation, Kim said his government is preparing measures to cope with all possible developments in the communist country.

On the domestic front, the president promised to seek an improved quality of life so that every citizen may lead a decent life.

To this end, the government will endeavor to get rid of crimes, especially organized and violent crimes, pollution and accidents.

The people should also discard the growth-first value orientation in favor of a balanced and harmonized development of society in politics, economy, environment and culture, he stressed.

In addition, the government will strive to stabilize prices by all means, while seeking a steady and sustained growth of the economy.

Concluding that the reform programs he pushed in the past three years were a success, Kim said he would continue these programs to create a bright future of the country in the coming two years, thanking the people for their cooperation in his reform programs.

He defined the reform programs of the past three years as those intended to correct the past wrongs and to bring the nation back onto the right track.

The reforms over the past three years have been successful because these reforms have provided for South Korea to play a leading role in world politics and economy, he said.

Indicting the two ex-presidents on bribery charges and making a special law to punish those responsible for the army mutiny in December 1979 and the armed suppression of pro-democracy protesters in Kwangju the following May were inevitable to carry out the reforms, he added.

Noting the coming two years is more important to Korea than any 20 years of the recent past, Kim stressed that the reforms must be continuously pushed in these years and added he would pursue uninterrupted reforms amid stability as his supreme goal in the latter half of his term.

Stability without reforms would lead to social stagnancy and corruption, and the reforms at the expense of stability would ruin whatever achievements they make, he remarked.

He said he would humbly accept the criticism and complaints some people are making about the way he has pushed ahead with the reform programs in the past.

But he stressed the future reforms should also be successful, even though they may cause some inconveniences to the people, as they did before.

The government will do its best to prevent all kinds of election fraud, as well as all unlawful election campaigns, and hold the coming parliamentary elections in the fairest and cleanest possible manner.

India: Kim Yong-sam Addresses Economic Groups at Luncheon

SK2602083696 Seoul YONHAP in English
0822 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Feb. 26 (YONHAP) — South Korean President Kim Yong-sam, on a state visit to India, emphasized the importance of South Korea and India working together to bring about a Pacific-Indian Ocean era by "merging the two regions into one economic bloc."

At a luncheon hosted Monday by three Indian economic organizations at the Hyatt Hotel, the South Korean head of state delivered an address entitled "A New Partnership for a Pacific-Indian Ocean Economic Region."

After pointing out that the two nations have historically had close cultural ties, the chief executive said that both South Korea and India are currently implementing reform policies while actively expanding bilateral investment and cooperation in such areas as automobile manufacturing and information technology.

When asked by Indian businessmen about the best way to establish a system for bilateral economic cooperation, Kim answered, "We have to develop an economic partnership based on the mutually complementary nature of our economies.... If India's advanced scientific expertise were combined with South Korea's manufacturing technology and India's abundant natural resources and large labor force with South Korea's management ability, we could not only increase our common profits in various areas, but also jointly advance into the world market."

Kim also stressed that the two countries will have to take the lead in broad market openings, by liberalizing investment and freer transfer of technology through bold reforms.

"Considering that Korea and India are playing leading roles in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), respectively," Kim asserted, "we have to build a firm partnership so that the burgeoning prosperity that has reached the Pacific region spreads to the Indian Ocean region."

Approximately 200 prominent Indian political, business and media representatives attended the luncheon, including the leaders of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the Confederation of Indian Industry, and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Thirty-nine Korean businessmen accompanied Kim, including Choe Chong-hyon, chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries, Kim Sang-ha, chairman of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and Pak Sang-hui, chairman of the Korea Federation of Small Business.

India: Rao, ROK's Kim Agree To Boost Bilateral Trade

SK2602103596 Seoul YONHAP in English
1027 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, Feb. 26 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam and Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao agreed Monday [26 February] afternoon to make joint efforts to increase bilateral trade from less than 2 billion U.S. dollars in 1995 to 5 billion dollars by the year 2000.

Their foreign ministers signed an agreement on investment guarantees and cultural exchange programs Monday. They also agreed to establish a South Korean consulate general in Bombay.

Kim and Rao agreed to establish a "future-oriented" partnership that will build a "new silk road" between Seoul and New Delhi before the dawn of the 21st century.

With this goal in mind, they decided to set up a joint government-level committee led by the foreign ministers from each country to meet annually.

Kim asked that the Indian Government encourage South Korean businesses to bid on the Indian electrical, communication and road infrastructure projects that have been given priority in India's "new economic policy."

Rao welcomed the eagerness of South Korean firms to do businesses in India and promised to cooperate, according to Korean officials.

While explaining the direction of the nonaligned movement's future activities, Rao asked for Seoul's understanding and support. Kim expressed his intention to support the nonaligned nations' movement for such activities.

While speaking at a luncheon sponsored by India's three businessmen's organizations, prior to meeting with Rao,

Kim proposed that the business communities of the two countries work together toward free trade.

Kim also proposed that a Pacific-Indian Ocean Economic Zone be created so that the two business communities can help each other.

There were about 200 Indian businessmen and political leaders attending the luncheon, and 40 South Korean businessman including Choe Chong-hyon, chairman of the Federation of Korean Industries, accompanied the president.

Kim's state visit to India will conclude with a dinner hosted by Rao Monday evening.

Kim is scheduled to leave New Delhi Tuesday morning and fly to Singapore, which is the next stop on his three-country tour of Asia.

India: Agreements Signed With ROK on Investment, Joint Commission

BK2702034296 Delhi Doordarshan Television
Network in English 1530 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a major step toward strengthening bilateral economic ties, India and South Korea have signed two agreements on promotion and protection of investments and setting up of a joint commission. The agreements were signed soon after the official talks between the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, and the South Korean president, Mr. Kim Yong-sam, in New Delhi today. This is the second summit between Mr. Rao and Mr. Kim Yong-sam after they last met in Seoul in September 1993 during the prime minister's visit.

The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, and his South Korean counterpart, Mr. Kong No-myong, signed the agreement for establishing a joint commission. The joint commission will help accelerate bilateral cooperation in various fields. The foreign ministers of the two countries will be the cochairmen of the joint commission.

The second pact on investment protection was signed by the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and Mr. Kong No-myong. The two agreements lay the foundations for further investment and economic cooperation between Korea and India which is expected to emerge as one of the world's largest markets in the 21st century.

Earlier, addressing Indian businessmen, the South Korean president said the two-way trade between his country and India is expected to increase to \$5 billion within the next four years. At present it is \$2 billion. He said

Seoul will make efforts to develop trade with India further and called upon New Delhi to liberalize its financial sector. The meeting was jointly organized by FICCI and CII and Assocham [Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Confederation of Indian Industry and Associated Chamber of Commerce].

India: Vietnamese Foreign Minister Meets With Rao

BK2402161296 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister said that India is committed to further strengthen and diversify its traditionally close relations with Vietnam. This was conveyed by Mr. Narasimha Rao to the Vietnamese foreign minister, Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam, when he called on him in New Delhi today. Mr. Nguyen said the decisions taken at the recent Indo-Vietnamese joint commission meeting will contribute to further growth in bilateral relations in various fields.

Iran

Iran: Tehran Cease-Fire Plan Accepted by Tajik Opposition

LD2602192696 Tehran IRNA in English 1905 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — A Tajik opposition leader said here today that the Islamic groups have agreed to Iran's proposal for extension of the ceasefire in the Central Asian republic.

Akbar Toreh-Janzadeh of Tajikistan's Islamic Resistance Movement, speaking to IRNA hours before the September 94 ceasefire between the opposition and government forces was due to expire, said: "In a letter to the United Nations secretary general, we have announced that we accept the Iranian proposal in this regard and are ready to put it into effect without any change if the government of Tajikistan also accepts it."

He said that according to information received from Dushanbe the Tajikistan Government was also in favour of the ceasefire proposal.

The September 94 ceasefire accord which was signed in Tehran had on earlier occasions been extended twice for three months.

Toreh-Janzadeh said that the tehran plan provides for exchange of 150 prisoners from each side within a month after the extension of the ceasefire.

He said that as per the plan the conflicting forces should stop at their present positions and any action against the other by either side would be regarded as violation of the ceasefire.

The Tajik opposition leader also stressed that the government of Tajikistan should guarantee the safety of observers of the joint commission.

Based on the September 94 agreement, seven representatives each from the two warring sides make up the joint commission to monitor the trend of agreements.

Toreh-Janzadeh thanked Iran's effort for restoration of peace and stability in Tajikistan.

Iran: Commentary Alleges FBI Bugging Operation in New York City

LD2302190296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The DAILY NEWS, in an exclusive report on Monday February 19, disclosed that the FBI had intentions of installing bugging devices in the [Iranian-owned] Alavi Foundation Buildings in New York. Under the phony article: "Nuclear Threats Against New York and FBI's Fear of Terrorist Operations By Iran," the daily claims that the FBI has carried out the operation at the agency's concern with activities of Iranian officials. Undoubtedly the unveiling of the espionage activities will once again make the public aware of yet another violation of international laws by Washington officials.

The U.S. administration has so far proved that when her dominance-seeking objectives are concerned she remains loyal to none of the international norms. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran is not the only country singled out. The world has already seen many cases of sabotage and spying activities by Americans across the globe. One characteristic shared by all countries attacked by the United States is their desire to resist the dominance imposed by America.

The United States is seeking leadership of the world and tolerates no objection by any world state. The U.S. attitude towards Iran is a very good example. Now, when America failed to reach her objectives in countering the Islamic revolution, the United States has resorted to espionage activities to get first hand information. Nevertheless, the U.S. problem is a lack of true understanding of the nature of the Islamic revolution. U.S. statesmen have spared no efforts to give the Islamic Republic of Iran a bad name and, amazing to know that, they have never even tried to hide their efforts. Making use of hostile propaganda and levelling baseless accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran still constitute the main anti-Iranian policies of the United States.

The article in the DAILY NEWS is definitely in line with the same U.S. policy to introduce Iranian institutes abroad as a cause for worry.

Iran: U.S. Accused of Anti-Izetbegovic Activities

LD2302211996 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sarajevo [words indistinct] daily in its latest issue, has unveiled the fact that the United States, in collusion with the CIA and the Bosnian-based NATO forces, is trying to topple the Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. Political analysts, however, believe that the thrust of the U.S. plot, as written by the paper, is to scupper the initiative the Bosnian president is leading. In fact the move by Washington is one of the factors causing the Bosnian crisis to drag on for such a prolonged time.

The move has also led to an irresponsible stance by the Western and international bodies toward the crisis. During the past 34 months the West has always backed the Bosnian Serbs and turned a deaf ear to world opinion complaints about their aggressions. However, as the world is furious about Serb crimes escalating, they have launched some initiatives. And today, as the crisis has been [word indistinct] and the Dayton Accord implemented, Washington resorts to other means to hinder the formation of a genuine Muslim country in the heart of Europe.

One of these strategies is collaboration with pro-U.S. officials. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that after the resignation of former Foreign Minister, Muhammad Sacirbegovic and Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, the White House attempts to pressure the Bosnian Government. Political analysts believe that the U.S. pressure on Sarajevo to cut ties with Iran is in line with the same policy since Washington sees Sarajevo's ties with Iran as a threat to its long-standing aims in Bosnia. Accordingly, the U.S. forces in Bosnia have defied the sovereignty of the Bosnian Government and broken into state centers to track down foreign Muslim combatants there and thus pressure Izetbegovic.

However, the U.S. attempt to topple Izetbegovic is just one of the blatant instances of the open policies of the United States. In addition to the above attempts, the United States has also launched massive cultural initiatives in Bosnia to try to part the Bosnian Muslim people from their Islamic entity and values. And the U.S. Government, with open support for Haris Silajdzic as an opponent to Izetbegovic, seeks to subvert his administration.

Iran: Commentary Notes U.S. Problems in Relations With Japan

LD2402130496 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1050 GMT 24 Feb 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto has left for Santa Monica for talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton. The visit, described as unexpected by political circles, is undertaken with the aim of creating an atmosphere of trust between the two countries. Political analysts believe that the deepening of the Japan-America trade disputes, the issue of the U.S. forces' presence in Japan gaining importance after the Okinawa incident, and the Japanese peoples' demand for a total withdrawal of those forces, have obliged Hashimoto to visit America before Bill Clinton's visit to Japan, scheduled for 16-18 April. The success or failure of these talks will certainly affect Clinton's coming visit to Japan.

Japan's relations with America at the moment are not in a satisfactory condition for various reasons. On economic considerations, the two countries are in dispute over air cargo transport, insurance, film, photographic paper, and semi-conductors. While America seeks a larger share in the Japanese markets, Tokyo believes that first, as far as the film market is concerned, there are no restrictions for foreign firms, including American ones. Second, the 20-percent share in the Japanese semi-conductor market — set aside for foreign producers according to the 1991 agreement — is a reasonable level and is unchangeable. Another difference of opinion between Japan and America, particularly in the sphere of intellectual property, has resulted in America taking its protest against Japan to the World Trade Organization. From the viewpoint of Washington, Japan's use of American intellectual properties contravenes the Uruguay round of trade talks.

This is the first trade dispute between member states of the World Trade Organization which has been referred to the organization. Japan believes the lack of enthusiasm for American goods in the Japanese or American markets stems from the qualitative superiority of Japanese products. To give an example, studies show that despite the recession in the Japanese domestic market, pressures caused by the fall in the Yen exchange rate, which caused a price rise in all types of Japanese cars, and the fierce trade disputes in the car industry in Japan, the Japanese car industry's share in America has been reduced by merely one-half of one percent. That indicates the quality of the Japanese products in comparison with that of American ones.

In addition to these disputes, talks between American and Japanese representatives concerning cargo flight regulations — talks which took place in the middle of last month — failed. Side by side with the unresolvable disputes, there are other wide-ranging disputes concerning the presence of the American military forces in Japan in such a way that they strongly threaten the two countries' security agreement.

The dispute began in the Okinawa prefecture. The people of Okinawa have been victims of the presence of American forces in their province since World War II. They have called for the withdrawal of these forces from Japan. Public pressure in Japan has caused Washington to consider a transfer of its military bases to Australia. However, the widely circulated daily AUSTRALIAN assesses the agreement of the Australian Government with such a request as unlikely. Thus, America, which opened a large account for the Asia-Pacific region for the era following the cold war, is now facing other realities.

Iran: 'Crisis' in U.S.-Cuban Relations Viewed

NC2602101496 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0445 GMT 26 Feb 96

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last night the UN Security Council convened a session, at U.S. request, to appraise the downing of two U.S. planes by Cuban fighter planes. The subsequent allegations and stances by the two sides, especially the U.S. officials, on the incident indicates that the events of the past few days can evolve into a major crisis in relations between these two countries.

The Cuban authorities announced that the two downed planes were targeted when they violated Cuban airspace. However, U.S. echelons insist that these two planes were downed over international waters. The U.S. Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, has said that this Cuban action contravenes international norms and will not go unanswered.

Experts believe that the U.S. response can be viewed from two aspects. First, as was reported in the news, in view of the influence the United States wields in the Security Council and international organizations, it will seek to propound the issue in these bodies in order to generate compliance from its allies for joining in the U.S. sanctions against Cuba.

Another issue is that it is possible that on the domestic level, Washington will propose new embargoes against Cuba and will intensify the ones already in effect.

This issue will provide the Clinton administration an opportunity to mitigate the pressure of the Republicans in the Congress and thus, by capitalizing on the existing political and propaganda facilities in diverting public opinion, seek to wrest the initiative in this regard.

In the event of Washington's success in being able to manipulate domestic and international public opinion on the issue, and in forming a coalition against Cuba, the Clinton administration will thus gain an opportunity on the eve of the presidential election campaign, to increase the probability of his victory over his Republican rivals. Most probably, Clinton's Republican rivals will also seek to use this crisis to exert political and propagandist pressure on the president and the Democrat Party to the optimum.

Iran: Commentary Criticizes 'Arafat for Alleged Betrayal

LD2302192296 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1530 GMT 23 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Zionist regime's Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, on Thursday February 22, once again called on Yasir 'Arafat, the leader of the so-called Palestinian self-rule, to eradicate the articles of the Palestinian Charter which call for the destruction of the state of Israel. Peres' call is assessed to be in connection with the commitments that the 'Arafat side undertook during the 1991 Gaza-Ariha [Jericho] Agreement. 'Arafat vowed, when signing the agreement, to omit all parts of the National Charter of Palestine that mentioned the destruction of the state of Israel. In this regard the PLO held a session early this month in Egypt, since any change in the charter should be permitted by the PLO parliament which is in exile. The differences which arose during the Egypt session made impossible reaching a decision on the matter. Some of the PLO members are believed to have opposed the Israeli demands for granting more concessions.

Despite all the rows, the executive committee of the PLO is due to hold a session later this month to consider the possibility of changing the Charter of Palestine. The Zionist regime pressures are apparently on the rise as the session is approaching. Observers believe by accepting the omission of the articles of the charter that call for the destruction of the state of Israel, the PLO leader is actually committing another betrayal to the Palestinian ideals. This will definitely weaken the position of the PLO during this year's meeting, which will be opened to finalize the situation in Gaza, the West Bank, and Bayt ol-Muqaddas [Jerusalem].

Iran: Caspian Oil Rig Inaugurated

LD2402213396 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1104 GMT 24 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Good day! As we informed you earlier, the inauguration ceremony of Iran's first oil exploration platform in the Caspian Sea is going to start in a few moments time, attended by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as well as a number of Iranian and foreign officials, including the Turkmen president [as heard].

I can now see that His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his entourage have arrived at the scene in order to inaugurate this important project. I will now pass you over to my colleagues in Sari. [video shows the arrival of Rafsanjani and his entourage, which includes Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i and Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh. Rafsanjani unveils a memorial plaque and then enters the rig's control room. He speaks over the loudspeaker and issues official permission for the rig to start operating. Video then shows the exploration drill at work, and then various parts of the rig, including its helipad from various angles. Pictures then show the beginning of the ceremonies in a small hall] [passage omitted]

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

I am pleased to inform you that during the First Development Plan, oil exploration work in the Caspian Sea gained a new momentum, and around 6,000 kilometers of the area was subjected to seismological analysis. At the same time, the modern Center for the Analysis of Seismological Data, benefiting from high-capacity computers and the latest software, was established, and for the first time in the country, the data collected was analyzed by Iranian experts.

Around this time, the first oil well with a depth of 5,550 meters was built in the southwestern regions of the Caspian. This proved the presence of natural gas at a depth of 4,500 meters.

During the first year of the Second Development Plan, the second stage of seismological operations began, and so far, an area of more than 3,000 kilometers [as heard] has been covered.

In the current year [ending 20 March], the excavation of the second well has begun in Meqdad structure, 30 km north of Neka. At present, the excavation has progressed to a depth of 4,000 meters out of a projected total depth of 4,500 meters.

With the inauguration of the Iran Khazar oil exploration platform, which you see before you, excavation on

the Meysam structure will begin with the hope of discovering at least 100 million barrels of oil and 3.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The projected completion time for this well is around six months.

The engineering and construction agreement of one drilling rig, of the elevating type, was concluded in 1368 [beginning 21 March 1989]. The construction of the rig began in the Neka region in an area measuring 10 hectares and with the cooperation of the Sadra Company.

The rig has a net weight of 6,500 tonnes and is 54 meters long, 53 meters wide, and a draught of 4.27 meters. It can drill in seven to 91 meters of water to depths of up to 6,000 meters.

The supports have a triangular base and a cross-braced construction, each with a height of 127 meters and weighing 2,000 tonnes. The deck measures 1,890 square meters and is capable of accommodating 80 technical crew. The rig has been designed and built according to the highest international standards for the marine and climatic conditions of the Caspian Sea.

The drilling industry, as the mother-industry of the oil industries, was run by more than 46 foreign — mainly American — companies or contractors before the Islamic revolution. After the Islamic revolution and the withdrawal of foreign experts, the National Iranian Drilling Company [NIOC] officially began its operations at the beginning of the month of Day 1358 [22 December 1978] [as heard] on the orders of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We are proud that with 38 land-based drilling rigs and three sea drilling platforms it has become one the biggest international drilling companies. Beside supplying all the domestic requirements, the company has brought about the possibility of operating outside the country.

NIOC has drilled more than 2 million meters, as 1,000 wells, since its foundation to the end of the First Economic Development Plan. Since the beginning of the Second Development Plan more than 400,000 meters in more than 220 wells have been drilled by the company. Fortunately, our country's oil industry enjoys the most satisfactory conditions and, as you know, we have managed within the past year to carry out many projects, including production, refining and pipeline projects, in regional and other countries across the world. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified speaker] We now request Dr. Aminfar to come forward and present us with a report on the drilling equipment of the Iran Khazar platform. He is the esteemed deputy oil minister. Please welcome Mr. Aminfar.

[Aminfar] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted] Permit me to report briefly on how this project came to take shape and be implemented.

After the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the possibility that the Caspian Sea possessed rich oil and gas resources, and because it was found that the transfer of a drilling rig from abroad to the Caspian Sea was not a practical proposition, the NIOC board of directors was prompted to issue the required legislation for the construction of a drilling platform on the shores of the Caspian Sea. The engineering and construction directorate [of the Oil Ministry] was made responsible for seeing the project through.

Following the preliminary surveys, it was finally decided to settle for a jack-up type of oil rig as the most appropriate for constructing and conducting exploratory drilling. Thus, the engineering agreement for building one of these rigs with a Finnish company, at a cost of \$73.1 billion, was signed on condition that the said company will make maximum use of domestic contractors, companies, and also Iranian experts.

The various stages of the construction of the Iran Khazar drilling rig and its peripheral projects:

The process of the construction of this rig on the shores of the Caspian Sea was as follows:

1. Just as has been mentioned, because it was not possible to purchase a ready-made drilling platform from abroad and transfer it to the Caspian Sea, the facilities for the pre-construction and construction of the rig had to be created on the shores of the Caspian Sea. In this respect, and in a bid to use the companies approved by the conditions set down by the Iranians, the NIOC — after approving the technical capability of the Sadra Company — asked the Finnish company to use the Sadra Company for carrying out the operational works of the drilling rig. The NIOC then placed 10 hectares of land at the disposal of the Sadra Company for the building of the covered area that would accommodate the construction of the platform and the ship. In addition to this, the NIOC gave the sum of \$1.8 billion in the form of machine-tools and 430 million rials as depreciation costs, to the Sadra company. In this way a workshop was set up on the shores of the Caspian Sea with the potential to build the drilling rig and different types of naval vessels. This workshop also acts as a center for the transfer of technical knowledge on drilling rigs.

2. The area in which the drilling platform was built. In order to carry out the project and have access to the right sea depth, first an area of the sea was reclaimed.

[passage omitted] The equipment for moving the drilling platform into the sea has been installed in this area and could be used in the future to launch drilling rigs and also to bring the drilling rigs to shore for repairs and technical inspection.

3. The project for building a barge. A barge measuring 43.5 meters by 22.5 meters by 7.4 meters, with a net weight of 9,954 tonnes and a volume of 6,240 square meters, was designed and built. It conforms to international standards and well-known organizations. This barge, which has a launching system, can be used in the future to launch drilling platforms or to bring them to shore for inspection and repair.

4. The coastal sea wall and breakwaters. In view of the rise of the Caspian Sea and in order to protect the installations, a sea wall of 1,300 meters long and 19 meters wide has been built at a distance of 80 meters from the coast. In addition to this, the necessary breakwaters are in the process of being built jointly with the Sadra company with the aim of creating a still-water dock.

5. The features of the drilling platform. Taking note of the depth of the water in which drilling operations will be conducted, use will be made of the jack-up type of drilling rigs; semi-floating drilling rigs and drilling vessels, in general. The Iran Khazar platform, which has been designed to drill 7,091 meters deep into the sea, has a net weight of 6,000 tonnes and is 54 meters long and 53 meters wide, and has a 4.27-meter draught. Its drilling strength is 6,000 meters deep into the sea. [passage omitted] The deck of the rig is 1,890 square meters and can accommodate 80 persons.

The achievements resulting from the construction of the Iran Khazar oil drilling platform: One of the important aims behind the construction of the first Caspian Sea oil platform was the attainment of technical engineering and construction know-how about oil rigs (?in conditions similar to those in this sea).

One important matter in this relation was the raising of the level of technical knowledge in the field of engineering, the precise construction details, planning and management with regards to the construction of oil platforms, and technical knowledge about quality control. Toward this end, in addition to exploiting the oil industry's engineering and operational resources, consultations were carried out with Iranian and foreign consultant engineers, with a view to reassessing the engineering studies and operational plans — as well as overseeing the implementation of the project. And, under the management of the construction engineering (?team) of the National Company for Refining and Distributing Iran's Oil Products, the engineering details,

operational plans, and technical specifications were reassessed. [passage omitted]

In this way, a higher quality was achieved, over the initial design and over comparable platforms, in the construction of the Iran Khazar platform. In conclusion, I would like to convey my congratulations, on the inauguration of another one of the projects that were, essentially, initiated under the First Development Plan of Iran and implemented in this country for the first time, to his Eminence Ayatollah [as heard] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the eminent president and the designer behind the reconstruction of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

[Speaker] At this moment, let us lend a joyful ear to the remarks of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the popular president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, [audience chants welcoming slogans]

[Rafsanjani] I can see that you have composed a song for Iran Khazar. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Today is truly a historic day for Iran and, especially, for Mazandaran. This was a long-standing wish of our people that was gradually forgotten during the government of the Soviet Union. Our younger generation was gradually abandoning this wish altogether.

The Caspian Sea can be one of the richest sources for the provision of fuel in the world and it stands to reason to believe that a major share of these resources are in Iran.

Since, under the Pahlavi regime, a weak position was adopted on Caspian Sea issues, there was no concern for solving our problems in this sea. [passage omitted] Things were such that we did not even carry out seismological studies in the past. Now that the revolution has been victorious and we have taken control of the destiny of our own country, we see that, in the northern part of this sea, all the existing resources are known to its coastal countries. Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Azerbaijan, they all know what they have under this sea, but Iran does not know. [passage omitted]

At this moment, we are in a location at which the depth of the sea is 30 kilometers, but this rig can deal with up to a depth of 91 kilometers. [someone whispers 30 meters and Rafsanjani corrects himself] 30 meters. We are excavating now at a depth of 30 meters underwater, but this rig can cope with 91 meters, with its long legs as you will probably see in the film.

As Engineer Aminfar explained to us now, they are getting ready to build the second rig entirely with Iranian resources, except for just a few parts that will be imported. Today, God be praised, we have the technology. During this short time, seismological

studies have been carried out in 6,000 kilometers of the Caspian Sea's waters and in just this area we have seen (?significant traces) of oil and gas. If, God willing, our excavation work bears fruit, the shores of the Caspian Sea will, in the near future, have oil refining and transfer installations, just like the shores of the Persian Gulf. This will bring about a major change in the lives of our people and in the resource-rich province of Mazandaran. [passage omitted]

Iran: Rafsanjani Addresses Assembly of Experts in Qom

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The sixth annual gathering of the Assembly of Expert for Leadership Affairs's [AELA] second session convened this morning in Qom's Dar al-Shafa theology school. Speaker of the AELA Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini chaired the meeting. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Meshkini described the status of the Majlis and noted the importance of elections. He also described the characteristics of a qualified candidate, saying: A good [Majlis] deputy should, in addition to fully adhering to the principle of the Velayat-e Faqih [guardianship of the jurisconsult], and accepting the political lines of the departed Imam [Khomeyni] — may God be satisfied with him — and esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, should be bold and courageous and should oppose compromise and hegemony.

Ayatollah Meshkini added: Other characteristics of an eligible deputy are to avoid extravagance and waste; to refrain from lying and exaggeration facts; to possess a sincere spirit; and oppose the idea of the separation of religion from politics; and of an Islam without the clergy.

Continuing his speech, Ayatollah Meshkini invited people to take part in the elections in a united manner and to elect qualified and capable individuals.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is first deputy speaker of the AELA also addressed the meeting, pointing to the important and destiny-making role of the clergy in the history of the country and Islam. He said: The attraction of competent, religious people who are sympathetic to the system and country has strengthened and preserved the presence of effective and capable forces in the arena, and safeguarded national unity in the move towards the achievement of the country's construction. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani considered that it was necessary to lay the grounds for healthy competition among candidates. [passage omitted]

He noted the role of the mass-media in the election campaign and in encouraging people to participate extensively. He said: Suitable conditions and an appropriate climate for staging healthy elections now prevail and we are confident that — among the countries of the world and even among countries that claim to be democratic and free — elections in Iran will be among the healthiest and most popular in the world.

The president urged people to participate in the elections and not to be indifferent to the destiny of the country and society. He said that this was the religious and social duty of the clergy and society's alert individuals and would result in a strong Majlis.

The president described the important and sensitive conditions currently facing the country and the region. He noted the blatant impudence of the enemies and their vicious behaviour towards the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: As the staunchest enemy of Islamic Iran, America is trying to prevent the implementation of Islamic laws, the development of the country and people's commitment to the sacred aspirations of the Islamic revolution. America is doing this by ignoring international regulations and protocol and by basing its actions on unfounded, biased, political pretexts.

The president considered that inner strength and development of the country's political and economic foundations were important and preventive factors in the face of the enemies. He said: One of the signs of the power and strength of the system is the large-scale participation of people in the elections, and we should, in confronting different interests, tastes and ideas, safeguard and emphasized the majority opinion. [passage omitted]

Iran: Mohtashami Interviewed on Elections

NC2502144096 *Tehran SALAM in Persian*
12 Feb 96 pp 1, 9

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Mohtashami by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [SALAM] Thank you for devoting some of your time to us and to our readers. My first question is what your opinion is on the conditions needed for healthy elections?

[Mohtashami] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. I think that there are four major and necessary conditions for true elections. The first condition is that the elections should be supported by strong and specific election laws that fully safeguard the rights of the voters

and the candidates. In short, laws should protect the people and prevent alien forces. In other words, while being a protective umbrella over all who accept the system and the Constitution, the law should thwart those who do not work within the framework of the system and Constitution. Therefore, laws should be so clear and explicit that they cannot be misinterpreted. Laws should be so explicit as to prevent the imposition of personal views when interpreting them.

The second condition concerns those who implement the law. These people should be non-dependent on groups, processes, and factions in elections, so that no ambiguities will be created on the elections or on the implementation of the laws.

The third condition is that the system should create the grounds for a healthy competition for all those that can legally participate in the elections. These facilities should be equally distributed among all the groups and factions and even among the independent individuals who meet the necessary requirements to participate in the elections.

The fourth condition is that the atmosphere of the elections should be calm and without any intimidation and fear for the candidates, their supporters, and the people who want to vote.

These are the four major conditions.

[SALAM] Recently in the press, one of the rightist faction's gentlemen said that the approval of credentials is based on suspicion toward individuals and they even said that they will not approve people unless their competence is approved. In other words, they consider the standard to be non-approval.

[Mohtashami] Yes. This is at a time when these gentlemen are themselves members of the influential faction in the elections. But, on the whole, one of the problems in the elections is the very fact that many of the voters and candidates are deprived of their social rights. During the fourth term elections, many people's credentials were rejected, and when the reason was questioned, the conclusion that was drawn was that these gentlemen did not have the time to review the candidates' records and files!! They were told that not having had the opportunity to review a person's file is not good enough reason to reject their credentials. But they answered that approval is conditional and that since these people were not approved, even if because of lack of time to review their records, they were rejected!! This type of approach is contrary to both Islamic and international laws. The legal system in many countries of the world is based on competence as a condition, but the rejection of competence should be based on facts

and individuals should not be deprived of their social rights.

[SALAM] Nevertheless, how do you assess your mission and the mission of the people in electing the fifth Majles?

[Mohtashami] As His Eminence the Imam, may his soul be sanctified, stated many times and also, in view of the emphasis that he placed in his will on the need for the Iranian nation to participate in the elections, I consider the people's participation in the elections to be tantamount to participation in the fate of the country, the system, the revolution, and of Islam. It is the divine mission and duty of the entire nation to have a serious and destiny-making presence in the elections when, irrespective of winner, it will be a day of a national show of support for the Islamic Revolution and will be watched by international observers. Therefore, I think that it is necessary for everyone to actively participate in the elections.

[SALAM] Recently the rightist faction published a series of articles in its newspapers, telling the Militant Clerics that they started to move in the wrong direction and that it is better for them to return to the system. What, in your opinion, made this faction become a type of spokesman for the leadership and to use this lever against a faction following the Imam's line?

[Mohtashami] Well, there is a faction called the rightist faction that supports the capitalists and is of a traditional and bazaar type. After the demise of His Eminence the Imam, may his soul be sanctified, this faction very strongly entered the scene. And the only obstacle that it saw in front of its efforts to achieve its objectives was the forces which, throughout the history of the revolution, always consisted of people who were on the Imam's side, who had closely pursued and understood his political, economic, and revolutionary ideas, and who insisted on the Imam's lofty ideas. These forces were not prepared to retreat even one step.

The faction that came after the Imam and assumed power considered its sole obstacle to be the faction that followed the Imam's line—the faction that held the majority of the seats in the third term of the Majles. I think that the other faction was the minority in the third term. And it was for personal interests that some people joined forces with them, and afterwards separated their ranks.

After the demise of the Imam, the ruling faction tried to isolate and practically remove the other faction, because if this revolutionary faction continued its presence in the legislature, naturally it could have been an obstacle to the programs and policies of the rightist faction or

could inform the people of what was going on. And since the rightist faction gradually gained access to all the propaganda and political instruments in the country, it was able to use these instruments to remove its rivals. For example, it was able to use the radio and television to carry out a propaganda bombardment against the rival faction and also to simultaneously spread ugly rumors among the people against renowned revolutionary and hezbollahi figures who were supported by the Imam. For example, we can refer to the rumors spread during the fourth term elections against our dear brother Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Karrubi or our other friends. They also started rumors about me and said I intended to export 10 tonnes of gold to the Lebanese Hizballah from the airport, but was arrested!! At any rate, this was the situation that prevailed.

What I am saying is that had the Council of Guardians' supervision been a sanctioned supervision, on the basis of which they would approve the credentials of people, would they have done all that? Those whose credentials were approved—whether they were seditious or not—and, if they were, and the Council of Guardians approved them, then wasn't it acting against the views of the esteemed leader. Why did it approve them? If they were not seditious, then what was all the propaganda about? Why did radio and television say this over and over again all day long? What meaning is there for a scholar in the Council of Guardians to say on the day of the elections that the people should not vote for such seditious people, and that if they vote for them, it will be like voting against Imam 'Ali?!

Of course, we and some of our friends had foreseen that all those forces rejected before the fourth elections would be rejected. Therefore, we did not intend to hand in a list of candidates. But since the esteemed leader had ordered that we participate, we did. Our brothers told him what we had foreseen and that our forces would be excluded. But, in order to prove to everyone that we do not disagree with the esteemed leader's views, we participated despite the fact that we knew what the outcome would be.

[SALAM] How determining an impact can the formation of the movement of the "officials" have on the elections?

[Mohtashami] Some people believe that the emergence of the group of "officials" at this juncture and the verbal disagreements that have emerged between the rightist factions is a sham war and that there is understanding between the two branches of the rightist process. Because, basically speaking, the formation of the group of officials is within the context of the continuation of the policy of depoliticization and economic adjustment,

of foreign debts, of the imposition of the policies of the IMF and the World Bank, of foreign investment in the country, of opening up the country [for international economic exchanges], of the principle of relations with the West, and so on. This is why Mr. Hashemi started the issue of depoliticization from the government and presented a so-called "working cabinet" to the Majles, stating, at that time, that he was politicized instead of the ministers. The rightist process went along with him in all phases, and the group of officials in relation with the consequences of the current conditions—both at home and abroad—cooperated with him. Nevertheless, there are no basic difference between the two branches.

Of course, if this difference between the two branches of the rightist faction is serious—which may possibly be the case—what caused this rift is the issue of the collective leadership of the rightist faction which, with this step, is facing a serious threat. The collective faction of the Militant Clergy and of the rightist groups supporting it do not want to hand over the scene to Mr. Hashemi, even though he was the pivot in the framework of collective leadership. The rightist faction is well aware that if it has been able to stabilize its rule over the legislative and executive branches, it has been because of the initiative of and the special position enjoyed by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

At any rate, this attempt will have short-term positive impacts, since it will cause a relative opening in the political atmosphere and will bring the Majles out of its one-dimensional feature. But what is important is that the president has taken an extremely dangerous risk with the government officials; and irrespective of whether he wins or loses in the future, it will be to the benefit of the rival process. This is because the attempt by Mr. Hashemi's officials are pushing the Majles and the elections toward becoming the rule. This innovation will pave the grounds for a fire that will spread to include all the revolutionary processes and even himself in the future and possibly during the fifth term. This is exactly like the policy of excluding revolutionary and so-called leftist groups, the consequences of which he faced during the fourth term.

I believe that during the presidency of others and in view of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's performance and conduct in this term, in their effort to pave the way for their ideas, they are using state instruments—both material, political, and other—and this in itself will be a weakening factor for the system and the revolution.

[SALAM] The other question raised in this midst is the characteristics of the candidates. In other words, in addition to the grounds and issues which you have referred

to, it is also important to see what characteristics Majles candidates should have.

[Mohtashami] In each system, be it democratic or Islamic, there are two issues in relation to this—two issues that are vital for the country, the people, and the system. One is domestic policy and the other is foreign policy. As far as these two principles are concerned, a deputy should be able to confront them with the authorities vested in him and his capabilities for supervision and control, without becoming a hostage to partisan and group dependencies. Far from such dependencies, he should place the interests of the nation and of the system and not the interests of his group and party at the top of the list of his priorities. It is only in this way that people can represent the nation.

A general characteristic for a deputy is that he should have a correct and precise outlook toward foreign countries, especially toward the sworn enemies of the revolution and the system, and be able to know their weak and strong points. Of course, today the number one enemies of the revolution, the system, and the Iranian nation are Israel and the world arrogance led by America. Naturally each deputy—irrespective of the group he belongs to—should, first and foremost, be able to know these enemies in the best possible way and to have a clear and correct assessment of America and Israel. Also, a deputy should know how he can be active and present on international scenes and world forums in a way that the interests of the system and the revolution, and not of the superpowers and our enemies, will be safeguarded or achieved.

The second general characteristic of a deputy is his full acquaintance with the structures of Iran's Islamic society and domestic conditions, as well as the ability to put forth good solutions to the political, economic, social, and security problems of society.

Moreover, a deputy should also have other special characteristics in view of the prevailing conditions today. One of these is his full awareness and understanding of time and place. A deputy should have a correct knowledge of domestic, regional, and world situations.

Secondly, a deputy should have a free nature and be courageous when confronting domestic and international events.

Thirdly, position and rank should not prevent a deputy from declaring his principled stands and decisive approach to unfavorable elements, irrespective of his rank. Rank and position should be a means to safeguard the revolution and the system and the vital interests of the country and the nation.

And finally, the people's deputy under today's conditions should have specific solutions and stands to declare on economic problems and be able to offer good solutions for the people's every day problems. In short, a deputy who wants to enter the Majles should put forth his platforms to the people during his four years as deputy, and powerfully insist and follow-up these platforms and policies in the Majles.

[SALAM] As you yourself are aware, the Militant Clerics have stated that they will not put forth any candidates for the fifth term of the Majles elections. Although members of the Militant Clerics have stated the reasons for their decision, some argue that this decision will isolate them and gradually cast the leftist faction into oblivion. On the other hand, some mass media and the rightist faction regard the issue from the obligatory aspect and thus impose pressures on the Militant Clerics. Until when will this decision by the Militant Clerics continue and is it reversible? Also, what made the Militant Clerics adopt this decision?

[Mohtashami] This topic has also been discussed by Mr. Karrubi, secretary general of the Militant Clerics. Our other friends too have explained this. So, I will briefly discuss this topic here.

During the fourth term as I said, there were plans for the exclusion of the process that followed the Imam's line. The gentlemen who intended to do so belonged to the right and, by using all the executive, supervisory, and even judicial means in their hands, they implemented this plan and excluded the followers of the Imam's line as much as possible. Of course, at that time, the issue of sanctioned supervision had not yet become law. Also, the Council of Guardians' supervisory committees in the provinces and towns were formed of specific people who belonged to the rightist process. Also, the elections committees too consisted of people from this process. Moreover, there were also the members of the elections staff who were, in a coordinated manner, primarily chosen by the rightist in a so-called unilateral manner.

Extensive state and non-state propaganda that worked negatively against our forces existed. I will not refer to foreign elements and pressures by the West and America as effective elements in excluding the forces following the Imam's line, even though these too were influential elements. I will recount an incident here which I faced before the elections for the fourth term. I had gone to the airport to go on a domestic trip. Meanwhile, a foreign guest was also arriving at the same time and some of the Arab countries' ambassadors had come to the airport to welcome him. Some of these ambassadors who knew me from the time when I was in the Majles, at the interior ministry, and at the Iranian Embassy in

Damascus, greeted me and were talking to me, when the topic of the elections was brought up and they asked me about what the outcome would be. They asked whether the rightist faction would gain the majority of seats in the fourth term or not. I said that the current majority would be maintained in the fourth term and that with my knowledge of the people, the people would vote for the revolutionary forces. Meanwhile, one of the ambassadors told me: "I believe that none of you in Tehran will win and your deputies will not gain any seats." I was surprised and asked how he could be so decisive in his forecast. He said: "Because America doesn't want it." I said: You don't realize that you are in the Islamic Republic of Iran and dealing with the Iranian people and you think that Iran is like other places where America can have its way. He said: "Well, we'll see after the elections."

After the elections and when the results for Tehran were announced, I immediately recalled his words. At any rate, one of the elements which was effective in removing the faction following the Imam's line was the foreign element. If you recall, all of the Western radios propagandized in unison about the extremism of the forces following the Imam's line and the need to remove these forces and to elect realist and moderate—and actually pro-Western—deputies. It was very clear to me and to many of my friends that we would face this fate in Tehran, and our political elimination was crystal clear. Therefore, at that point in the fourth term elections, it was decided that our brothers in the rightist faction and in the rule want our forces to be absent from the scene and even some of these gentlemen had planned that the revolutionary forces and the followers of the Imam's line be overthrown in the worst possible way, we—the Militant Clerics—would halt our political activities. From then on, the association's political meetings were halted and each one of the members of the association started to serve in various places as forces supporting the revolution.

Today in view of the above problems in the fourth term and the fact that those conditions still exist and no changes have been made in the rightist faction's behavior, putting forth candidates was considered to be wrong, illogical, and impossible by us. We should either speak out strongly about certain issues—something which will cause a tension and weaken the system and the revolution—or we should be silent and stand aside. And we think that the second is the best alternative.

[SALAM] Some people are trying to downplay the Islamic nature of the system while others are trying to weaken the republican nature of the system and to limit the people's participation to going to the polls. What is your opinion of these things?

[Mohtashami] Unfortunately in these two processes we see the two extremes at work. One trend believes that Islamism is the only principle and that republicanism is superfluous and that since Islamism is contingent on the rule of a specific group, therefore the people's views and votes are insignificant. Another trend believes that everything hinges on republicanism and that the Islamism of the system is the result of this being voted for by the majority of the people. They feel that what we have is the outcome of what the masses and the people have voted for. I think that these two views are two extremes and both are incorrect. We have one reality with two dimensions here. Islamism and republicanism have become one. Islam without the people is meaningless; and in Iran, without Islam the people do not have any identity.

When our people embraced Islam, they rejected the class-system that existed in the monarchy. They accepted Islam with all their hearts and sacrificed their lives for it. Anyone who wanted to rule without Islam has been defeated.

Before the revolution, for some time the dependent Pahlavi regime resorted to force and violence, and it killed and imprisoned people to destroy Islam.

America was active in this country and dominated it. At that time, the people's lives, respect, and dignity were worth nothing. But you saw how the people finally rose up and established Islam through their revolution. Therefore, Islam without the people or the people without Islam is meaningless. Of course, the past regime falsely claimed to believe in Islam so that it could continue to survive. But actually their Islam was an American Islam. However, after the Islamic Revolution, the people and pure Islam united and became one and created the Islamic Republic, which was able to overthrow the big powers and to offer all the services that we have today. From this angle, republicanism is part of the Islamic nature of our system and vice versa. The Prophet could not have achieved anything without the barefoot masses. And the barefoot masses could not have had a positive effect without the Prophet.

[SALAM] Another issue we are hearing about in society now is the debate about parties. Some believe that society should move toward the formation of parties. How natural do you think the need for parties in society is, and to what extent is this issue connected with the political issues of the day? Also, what was the view of the imam, may his soul be sanctified, on the issue of parties, in view of the fact that it was during his era that the Islamic Republic Party [IRP] was formed and dissolved?

[Mohtashami] There is a definition of parties now prevailing. According to this definition, a party has a specific organization and program. This is very good, because this clarifies for the people who has what objectives and platforms. But one of the faults of parties is that anyone who becomes a member is an insider, and anyone who is not a member is considered an outsider. In other words, society is thus split into groups. This applies throughout the world. The one party that exists in Islam is the Hezbollah, as has also been clearly stated in the Koran. The special characteristics of this party are described in the Koran, and the members of the Hezbollah have special characteristics too. Of course, this does not have the same meaning today.

I think that the "party" concept as it is understood today and the political parties that are being formed in Iran or that many people here want to form are things that are not supported by the people because of ideological, historic, social, and political beliefs. One of the shortcomings of parties is that they formulate an ideology, principles, and objectives for themselves that usually do not conform to society's, and therefore they gradually become separated from the people. Meanwhile, the enemy can easily infiltrate such organizations, or use opportunistic members of the parties to use the party for their personal ends. Such parties have been numerous in the history of our country and their performance ultimately caused the people to become disillusioned with parties and their games. Moreover, as I said, such parties lead to negative groups that harm the people and lead to political clashes and differences in society. At any rate, parties in the sense that they exist in the world today will create many problems in our country.

Also, the current situation cannot be accepted. We should have a series of political and social groups with specific programs and policies that are able to put forth programs, form strategies, and inform the people of these things so that the people will know what they are, how they think, and what programs they have. Such organizations should not take the form of traditional parties because, in addition to the above faults, they also disappoint the people—something which then backfires. Our people do not vote in favor of parties. Even most of our people's deputies in the Majles act on the basis of their canonical duties, correct assessments, and their beliefs; and they are not prepared to carry out partisan activities or to accept any orders for, for example, some party to which they belong. This is laudable and good.

At any rate, we cannot fully cover this topic in one interview and answer all possible questions. But what can probably be said is that there are various processes and ways of thinking; the various proponents should put forth their specific programs and platforms to the people

within the framework of a series of organizations, groups, or associations so that the people can make a healthy and sincere choice. But such groups should not have the objective of removing others or with the sole objective of gaining power and trampling on others. They should act on the basis of Islamic and Koranic teachings and act as Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, acted. This is the meaning of Hezbollah, the major basis of which is religion, and the belief that others should not be eliminated just because they do not accept some party's way of thinking.

Some people may now say: Your faction acted in the same way during the Third Majles and replaced the other faction. They may ask what I, as interior minister, did at the time. I say that there is no truth at all to this and that there are documents and facts to clearly prove this. I am being criticized by some people from the faction that supports the imam's line on why, during my term as interior minister, I retained in key posts certain individuals who were extreme rightists, whereas the rightist faction today has ousted all the hezbollahi and revolutionary forces, and individuals are removed from their posts on even the slightest bit of information that they have praised the imam. I tell these people that when I was in the Interior Ministry, the governors-general—who were extremely close to Mr. Nateq-Nuri—and members of the rightist trend were kept in their positions. For example, in those days many people called for the removal of one of the governors-general, saying that he was constantly meeting with Mr. Nateq-Nuri and that it would be better to replace him. But I said that anyone who is capable and can serve should be used, and that the mere fact that someone is Mr. Nateq-Nuri's friend and agrees with him is not reason enough to remove him.

[SALAM] Under the current conditions, some of the people who were promoted to higher positions through the IRP are criticizing parties and the formation of parties, not for the reasons that you have listed but apparently because they are worried that the parties will generate so much political heat that various spectrums of power will be created, and this will endanger their monopoly of power.

Another question remains unanswered about the imam's approach to the IRP. Naturally, the approach of his eminence the imam can give us certain yardsticks for judging the issue of parties. Since in the current conditions there are some favorable factors for the formation of parties and for partisan behavior and there is also criticism of parties, can this situation be due to their unwillingness to answer for their acts and programs?

[Mohtashami] Yes, apparently the same establishments that you are talking about have the negative characteristics of most parties around the world. The rightist trend has a short-sighted attitude and a closed and extremely narrow party structure. It says that anyone joining our process is with us and those who do not are against us and will be treated as the enemy. They do not even think others have a right to exist. These are the negative characteristics of parties in our society and around the world. The rightist trend left over from the IRP is behaving in the same way because the IRP contained two specific trends.

One trend was progressive and clear and included revolutionary Muslims, among whom were educated people. The other trend was the rightist one comprised of bigots and profiteers.

I do not want to say that the current members of the rightist faction are all bigots and short-sighted. But the people heading the rightist faction have absorbed up the bad and negative habits of the parties that ban nonparty members as much as possible and who do not believe in their right to exist. This faction has lost the positive points in their party activities, the positive points you referred to. After all, there are some positive points to parties, when a party shows its report card to the public and also specifies its future program as a dynamic movement so that the people can then ask: Since these are your programs and your foreign, economic, and social policies, what have you done? The rightist faction has done away with all this.

Yes, the rightist faction is afraid of the formation of parties in Iran because most political parties in the world have both positive and negative points. If such parties are formed, the people will be attracted to them and will thus pull the rug out from under the feet of the rightist faction. The people are attracted to specific programs and policies. If some people in the rightist faction, despite the fact that they too belong to a party, disapprove of parties and the formation of parties, it is because they are afraid that whenever a revolutionary trend of thought with a program is formed in the atmosphere of the Islamic Republic of Iran, naturally the people will support it. If they have firm and strong bases, they should have no fear at all of the formation of parties. But since they know that they themselves do not have any distinctive way of thought, programs, or platforms, and if they do they are retrogressive and weak and rejected by the people, they disapprove of parties. On the whole, I believe that we should move in the direction of a party or parties that lack negative points as much as possible and that have as many positive points as possible. And if there is a party, it should be within the framework of the ideas of Imam 'Ali, peace

be upon him, and of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified.

Iran: Meeting at Interior Ministry To Prepare for Election

*LD2602101996 Tehran IRNA in English
1508 GMT 25 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA — The Council of Guardians will wrap up investigations into complaints received by nominees whose eligibility has been rejected by the boards screening the forthcoming Majles elections. An informed source told the daily 'IRAN' that the council will provide governorates and district governorates with the list of the candidates who have been accepted by the council as eligible candidates to run for the elections, slated for March 8.

Meanwhile, representatives of the judicial, military, security and law enforcement institutions met at the election headquarters of the Interior Ministry in an effort to prepare the ground for a calm and healthy election. Deputy Interior Minister for Security and Disciplinary Affairs Gholam-Hoseyn Bolandian said that during the meeting decisions were also made to provide facilities for those electorates living in mountainous areas.

In another development, a spokesman for Jameh-ye Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez (JRM) [Militant Clergy Association] told the daily that its list for Tehran, including 30 candidates, has been finalized and will be published in a near future.

Seyyed Reza Taqavi further added that the JRM list is independent, adding that the group has made no coalition with any group. On the final approval of the eligibility of candidates, Taqavi said that views by the Council of Guardians in this connection should be honored, adding that JRM would fully accept the council's final report.

In other election-related development, a member of the central council of the Union of Muslim Students Associations announced that it would not offer any list, either independent or in coalition with other groups. He said the union has reached this conclusion in its latest session. Prior to the announcement, there were talks about the possibility of the union presenting its own list of candidates.

Meanwhile, a group of the former prisoners of war (pows) in a statement issued here said they would release a list of their own candidates for the fifth Majles. The group, having been formed recently, comprises veteran pows of the 1980-88 imposed war who intend to have an active presence in the Majles. A member of the group said the list included less than 30 candidates

among whom there were university graduates and doctors.

In another development, secretary general of the Labor House, 'Ali Reza Mahjub, said the list of candidates of the Labor House is the same list offered by Kargozaran-e Sazandegi (functionaries of Iran's reconstruction). Referring to the rejection of the eligibility of some of the candidates, Mahjub said the only reason for such a decision was lack of popularity of the nominees.

Iran: Aqazadeh—Iran Can Implement 'Global-Scale' Oil Projects

*LD2602104196 Tehran IRNA in English
0941 GMT 26 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Feb. 26, IRNA — Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said here Sunday that the expansion of petrochemical industries and the production of various related products have ensured Iran's status as the second producer and exporter of petrochemicals in the region. The minister made the remark during the inauguration ceremony of the first international fair of oil, gas, petrochemicals and related products. He added that Iran's petrochemical industries enjoy relative superiority and stressed that the development of this sector of the economy is one of the long-term objectives of his ministry.

Turning to the technical and engineering capabilities of companies affiliated to the oil ministry, he said Iran is qualified to implement large-scale projects on a global scale in the fields of oil, gas and petrochemicals. He also voiced the country's readiness to implement such projects, either independently or as joint ventures with international companies.

The minister stressed that Iran will implement 12 large-scale national projects within the framework of buy-back contracts, adding that the ministry intends to carry out these ventures by attracting foreign investments during the second five-year development plan (1995-1999).

He expressed hope that the first international fair, attended by 110 foreign and domestic companies, would provide the ground for technical, engineering and commercial cooperation between Iran and the participating countries. Refinery equipment, under pressure reservoirs, various kinds of compressors and valves, regulators, as well as oil and chemical products are on display at the fair.

Companies from Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Britain, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, Russia, China, Romania, Hungary, Qatar and the United

Arab Emirates (UAE) are participating in the exhibition, which is to run until February 29.

Meanwhile, during the ceremonies marking the fair's opening, Minister of Industries Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh stressed that high quality and more competitive goods can be produced using domestic potentials. He emphasized that international cooperation should be expanded through the promotion of domestic capabilities as this is necessary to realize the development objectives of the country.

Nematzadeh referred to the good designing and engineering potentials that exist in the country, saying that these could form a suitable basis for enhancing cooperation between domestic and foreign companies in implementing international projects.

President of the Export Promotion Center of Iran (EPCI), 'Ali Sa'idlu, also speaking at the fair's opening ceremony said that over dlr. 350 million worth of petrochemical products were exported during the first ten months of the current Iranian year, (started March 21, 1995). The value of petrochemical exports is expected to exceed dlr. two billion in the second development plan, Sa'idlu concluded.

Iran: Shafli Says Airlines Not Affected by Boycott
96LA0118A Tehran PARVAZ in Persian 22 Dec 95
-20 Jan 96 p 10

[News conference with Engineer Seyyed Hasan Shafli, general manager of Homa Airlines Company; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the recent meeting of "YATA" and the six-month operation of Homa Airlines Company [the Islamic Republic of Iran's airline company] regarding self-sufficiency in repairing airplanes, improving the structure, and reducing costs were explained by the general manager of this company.

In a press conference, Engineer Seyyed Hasan Shafli emphasized the ineffectiveness of the U.S. embargo on Iran regarding the flight services of Homa and said: This embargo resulted in the increase in the technical ability of the Airline Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the output of this company in the first six months of this year also in the area of passenger and cargo transport increased in an unprecedented manner compared to the previous years.

He said: The Homa flight network in the first six months of this year, with its 30 passenger and one cargo airplanes, transported 3,447,000 passengers and 20,500 tons of cargo inside and outside the country. Compared

to a similar period last year, these figures increased by 12 percent and 24 percent, respectively.

He added: Based on the latest report by "YATA," Homa, the Airline Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in addition to having the highest safety rate, is among the most active airline companies in the world. In 1994, in the chart of reputable and important airline companies in the world, it was in the top 15 percent.

The general manager of Homa Airlines Company also said: In terms of profit for passenger and cargo transportation, the Airline Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran is at the top of the airline companies in the Middle East and North Africa region, and in terms of number of passengers, is the second airline company in the region.

In continuation, Engineer Shafli pointed out that in the first six months of 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996], more than 70 percent of the international market of passenger and cargo transport in Iran belonged to Homa Airlines Company and said: During this period, the share of Homa in passenger transport in the competitive markets from Iran to other countries and vice versa increased by 75 percent.

The general manager of the Airline Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in continuing this press conference, referred to the actions of domestic experts toward self-sufficiency in the area of engineering, repairs, and decrease in foreign currency and rial costs and said: This year, for the first time in the country, six Fokker-100 airplanes, which are among the most technologically advanced, underwent semi-major repairs.

Emphasizing that at the present time, Iranian experts, if needed, are capable of doing major repairs on Boeing 727 and 737 and Fokker-100 planes, Engineer Shafli said: At the present time, more than 85 percent of the electronic parts of the Boeing airplanes are repaired in the new Airplane Electronics Workshop, and since the beginning of this year, more than 1,000 airplane parts have been repaired in the electronic workshops of Homa Airlines Company.

The general manager of Homa Airlines Company said: With efforts toward self-sufficiency in engineering and repair, in the six months of 1374, more than \$3 million has been saved in foreign currency.

He said: The Iran Tourism and World Tourism Unit of Homa Airlines Company also has begun its activities of promoting the tourism industry in the country, under the supervision of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance.

Regarding the results of the 51st meeting of "YATA" in Indonesia, the general manager of the Airline Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: As a protector of the airline companies and especially flight safety, in its meeting this year, as in the 41st and 47th meetings, in a communique that was read by the secretary general of the organization, it strongly condemned the embargo on airplane spare parts by the United States and called for immediate removal of the prohibition and the embargo regarding Iranian airplanes.

He added: In this meeting also, Iran became a main member of the three main committees, "Financial," "Development and Training of Manpower," and "Technical Specialization."

Last year, Iran was a member of the Technical Specialization and Development and Training of Manpower Committees.

Iran: Daily Interviews Mohammad Javad Larijani
96LA0121A *Tehran AKHBAR in Persian* 24 Dec 95
pp 1, 3, 4

[Interview with Dr. Javad Larijani by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **An Idealist Must Be a Realist. The Majles Needs To Be Renewed. Dr. Javad Larijani**

[AKHBAR] Regarding the Fifth Majles election, in your opinion, why has this election been regarded as destiny-making? Do you think that a change has occurred in the structure of the society and the regime resulting in this election being deemed as so sensitive?

[Larijani] Let me use reverse logic. It must be said that all the elections have been important. If the Majles election is handled well, it will have a positive effect on the destiny of the people, but it cannot be said that this election is any different from other elections. Perhaps the important difference is that we have ahead of us the presidential election during the Fifth Majles, which the direction of this election will affect. These elections will occur in a particular social and economic situation with which I do not agree very much. While I believe in the importance of the elections, the status of the Majles is clear in the Constitution, even though this status has neither fully been manifested in the legislative system nor the government administrative system and has not gained its place.

In the Fourth Majles, an emphasis was placed on expertise, which is a good aspect of the Fourth Majles.

Among the effects of this attention was the establishment of the Majles Research Center. In this center, re-

searchers carry out expert work regarding the proposals and bills that are offered to the Majles.

[AKHBAR] Perhaps the sensitivity you refer to concerns the appearance of new groups in the Majles, because apparently other groups and leanings have been tested in other terms. Apparently, the Fifth Majles is moving toward becoming more specialized. What is your opinion?

[Larijani] The elections, in my opinion, take precedence over groups. Parties and groups are the prelude to elections. Not every election must necessarily be coupled with the activities of parties and groups.

In none of the elections that have been held have parties been active in the sense of the political literature and with a specific agenda, in order for that agenda to be pursued in the Majles later, as in England, where the method and activities of two parties are quite clear and can be pursued. We do not have such organizations. The majority faction, to which I also belong, in terms of programs regarding development seriously supports the modification view of Mr. Hashemi, and we have accepted this as the basis for our economic thinking. The modification view is a basic theory. Some government bills stem from this plan and program. Hence, it is difficult to say that the opinion of the majority is implemented precisely. We cannot think of the Majles as a place for factional maneuvers, with factional and group actions. On the contrary, the Majles must be regarded as a decisionmaking body. Then, we should look at the relationship of the government with the Majles and the Majles with the government.

In our social and political system, the government and the Majles cannot be evaluated only on the basis of tendencies. It was not so, even during the time of Engineer Musavi, when there was support for the direct involvement of the government.

[AKHBAR] Does this phenomenon not rise from the lack of homogeneity in decisionmaking?

[Larijani] Political life is a part of civil life. Political life is an aspect of civil life, along with citizenship and government. The basis of our politics is still far from being stable. Governing and citizenship have not developed in our country very much. The Majles is an aspect of governing, and it requires being renewed as much as the government, parts of the government, or even citizenship require. If we find ourselves at the level of our capabilities, we can make progress. The reason for the government being so large and controlling a major part of production and services is that the government wants to be in charge itself. This is a sign that governing is not advancing. Governing

means providing direction, making decisions, guidance, and supervision. In other words, governing is not participation in the affairs.

[AKHBAR] In politics, there is idealism as opposed to realism. It reaches a point that sometimes idealists accuse others of realism, as if realism were negative. What is your opinion?

[Larijani] In the Western sense, in which a realist chooses his goals on the basis of resources, realism is attacked for not first setting the goal and then mobilizing the resources toward it. This means technical thinking or liberal thinking. In liberal thinking, there is no clear and set goal. Rather, "value" determines the goal. But the idealist must be realistic. Ideals determine the direction, but if the actions are not realistic, we do not reach the goals. Realism does not mean that we should forget our dignity in the world. Rather, we must choose our goals on a rational basis, and take our steps on the basis of realities. I do not see any contradiction between realism and idealism. Idealism is necessary for some of the decisions and realism for some of the other decisions, in order to build a rational society and human beings.

[AKHBAR] With this definition, how realistic has the Fourth Majles been? More importantly, to what extent have we observed such considerations and definitions in our political culture?

[Larijani] We followed a process of growth. Governing in our country was such that when the revolution became victorious, firstly, a new government system appeared, and, secondly, a social movement was born outside our borders that was termed fundamentalism. Perhaps from the beginning we did not think that governing requires a rational foundation, and those who got involved in this work were not very informed. Those in charge of the affairs and the person who appointed them were both religious and interested in the regime and they wanted the country to advance, but neither believed that governing requires specialization. Later, we realized that there are rules for understanding the phenomenon.

[AKHBAR] Perhaps it was necessary to understand.

[Larijani] This phenomenon is growth. We realized that governing requires coherent thought, organized thought, and the use of human knowledge.

A political view must respond to three issues. first, it must have a picture of idealism; second, it must offer a suggestion for structuring civil life; and, third, it must project a framework for economic policies. We do not have political convictions with such characteristics. It is also the same with regard to economic affairs. In the economy we have indicators such as inflation

or fluctuation of prices, but understanding the effects requires another kind of knowledge.

Of course, the direction is toward perfection. Even the ideas that are discussed in the foundations of the government, even the false ideas, are good signs, because they show that people have discerned these points. This was not so previously.

I do not believe that we are facing a crisis. I do not accept the speculation of crisis at all. We have been confronted with a process of growth, which we must understand well. We must make use of human knowledge, organized ideas, and scientific gains to achieve the ideals. This can be the foundation for civil life.

This is not technocracy in the sense that Max Weber states. This is in the sense of suitable administrative organization, also stated by Weber, in other words, the creation of a bureaucracy that we need.

[AKHBAR] Would this inclination to specialization not force us to understand the place of the people, the rights of the people, and all the thinking of the people in the form of political parties? Should the Fifth Majles elections not progress toward such a general aspiration? Is this inclination toward more specialization not an important characteristic of the Fifth Majles?

[Larijani] Choosing representatives has a longer history in the world than political parties. In other words, having a representative of a group of people to defend the rights of that group is much older than party activities. Political parties became a method, which was created in the West 150 years after the idea of choosing representatives. This became a method that made the form of elections more rational. We should not think that specific organizations are a prerequisite for elections. We must first accept the principle of representation. Then, we must implement better methods to achieve representation. One of the marks of post-modernism is to question party organization. As much as party organization is rational, it also has two negative effects. First, it is possible for the structure of the organization, in place of another rational course, to isolate the people; that is, for the people to feel that in their participation they face limited choices. Post-modernism says that the tendency toward political parties has not helped ensure better choices than before. On the contrary, because of the limitations, it has isolated the people. I myself believe that political organizations can have a positive role, but I believe that we must not forget the central principle of the election process.

If political organization occurs naturally, it is a good phenomenon, but if it takes the form of a political

game, it has been a positive experience in the Third World. In other words, in this case, people lose hope of participation. In other words, we must give credence to elections and not parties.

When the revolution became victorious, we wrote the Constitution with an Islamic essence, using a Western phenomenon. We had in mind to find the best and newest methods for governing. This method must be continued.

Now, at the start of the Fifth Majles elections, I feel that by raising such ideas, some people feel a void in regards to parties, as if in the absence of parties, elections are not valid. This is not a correct understanding of the issue. The culture of elections must be understood from its roots. We must take elections as a principle (as a symbol of political growth), of which voting is a part. As at the time of elections, important national issues are examined, the national issues will all fall in place. It is considered an important event. Now, no matter who is elected, this—that is, the grounds for the expression of opinion—is a good phenomenon. Moreover, I am afraid of very quickly becoming "classified." The framework must be preserved but by allowing various spectra. Some say that in a faction known as "Velayat" [guardianship] (Ruhaniyyat-e Mobarez [Militant Clergy Association]), various spectra from ultramodern to ultra-traditional can be found...

[AKHBAR] In other words, from you to...?

[Larijani] No, I am the lowest of servants. This must be preserved. Now, if we classify the principles, we must dispose of some of these leanings. We must have more widespread frameworks, and a party must not restrict itself to limited principles. This openness is also a characteristic of modern life at the end of the twentieth century. Now, early in the century, there was talk about classification and restriction. For this reason, ideas, such as fascism and communism or Marxism, were created. At the end of the century, the conclusion has been reached that we must be open. A wise person is one who is less classified and more open and flexible.

[AKHBAR] Do you think there has been an effort toward classification? Moreover in any case, in elections, there is need for offering classified ideas. Also, have monopolistic tendencies in the previous Majleses encouraged the officials to offer classified ideas within the group leanings?

[Larijani] The tendency toward a party creates monopolism. Party organization, if it is defined well and limited, is monopolistic. Of course, this monopolism is legal. In fact, the lack of parties has prevented monopolism in our society.

If party elections are held, we shall not have monopolism that is contrary to law. We must be after giving credence to votes. We must try to make the phenomenon of voting more validated. We should see how people vote and improve on it. If we continuously and gradually improve the idea and method of people's voting, that will be better than trying all at once to establish the best possible voting. The better choice is for a person to choose from all the candidates on all the lists. He should listen to the recommendations and then vote.

But there is a common form that is mostly practiced in countries such as ours. In other words, in elections people place importance on the opinion of the respected and trusted people. This is part of our social structure. For example, in a village or small community, people go to those they trust and ask their opinion. In other words, they do not have the patience or are not accustomed to choosing an individual. It is not in our interest to disrupt this social structure. Elections take place in such a climate and condition. Realism dictates that we not try to change this structure. In other words, we should allow election campaigns; exchange of views; activities; and press, radio, and television discussions and debates to exist. The trusted people and the knowledgeable should not hesitate to guide the people. They should talk to the people about the candidates and guide them. It is not bad for a group to recommend candidates to the people. That is, there is no problem with it for our particular social structure. Elections will still be carried out. One group elects on the recommendation of the knowledgeable and another by relying on its own understanding.

If we try to create a culture very remote from this structure, we shall not be very successful. The creation of culture means more than offering an opinion in a book. The creation of culture means creating a reality. Every suggestion that we offer in this culture must be close to reality. Disrupting the custom of people trusting in the recommendation of knowledgeable persons will have ill effects. Knowledgeable people must be guided in regards to their recommendations.

Hence, elections in our country are more complicated than offering a formula, like the West. Maintaining the traditional structures is sometimes better than offering new, alien structures. These structures are the pillars of the tent of the society. People turning to his holiness 'Ali, which is a rooted tradition, even happens sometimes with regard to personal affairs. We should not disrupt this structure; we should reform it. It is unfortunate that our social and political thinkers do not take such phenomena into consideration.

[AKHBAR] Our society after the revolution advanced toward politicization. People, even in the small structure

of the family, developed different political viewpoints. Gradually, the participation of the people in some areas of decisionmaking, including elections, began to decline. What factors caused the people not to be optimistic regarding such participation?

[Larijani] This is not what I anticipate. I think that the Fifth Majles elections will be received well. Lack of interest is not exclusive to our country. It has also happened in other countries. The relationship of the decreased participation of the people in the elections, of course, does not mean less trust. After the victory of the revolution, the government found its "structure" and "organization." As a result, revolutionary fervor changed into a sense of duty regarding professions, which itself is revolutionary but does not seem revolutionary. A revolution is an event, but the government that results from it is an organization.

Parties in Iran are an infamous phenomenon. Parents are afraid of their children's membership in parties because first, they fear the consequences, and second, they fear that their children will forget their main work and duty in their involvement with political ideologies. They do not think politics can be a profession. This is also a part of the existing culture, and it is not bad. In this climate of suspicion of political parties, we must spread the seeds of political awareness that will prevent institutionalized corruption. In other words, we must do something to ensure that this general culture is used for the advancement of the political culture of the country, especially by relying on tradition. That is why I believe that instead of insisting on the creation of parties, we must encourage the growth of the legitimacy of voting and elections.

[AKHBAR] The existing situation must also be taken into consideration. Out of the two kinds of preference and viewpoints that exist at the present, one faction has withdrawn. As a result, another group will replace it that has not been tested. It seems that we are witnessing the presence of the independents. Given this assumption, will the composition of the Majles change?

[Larijani] The fact that the Militant Clergy Association says that it does not offer candidates does not prove that that organization will not be active. They will be active. This is a problem that was stated in its Tehran organization, in which they cannot reach an agreement, but introducing candidates by guild organization (such as physicians or engineers) does not mean the creation of a political stratum. A political stratum is beyond a guild. It usually is not born from within a guild.

[AKHBAR] Is it not possible to consider the Militant Clergy Association a guild?

[Larijani] The Militant Clergy Association reflects a political leaning, it is an umbrella under which various kinds of views and inclinations can be found. For example, in the political structure, they believe in religious guardianship as an important element. In the economy, they put major emphasis on the private sector. In cultural issues, they prescribe a strong traditional inclination, and in foreign policy they are almost liberal and open. On the other side, the Militant Clerics Society is not in conflict with this group in everything. For example, this faction did not strongly oppose the Second Plan. They accept the main elements of the Second Plan. In foreign policy as well, there is not much difference between the two factions. In cultural issues, in the previous extremist faction, readiness for accepting nontraditional methods can be seen. In other words, these factional divisions are not precise beyond these general points.

[AKHBAR] Is it possible to imagine that an overall party can be formed, as some gentlemen suggest, combining these inclinations, which, according to you, are not very much in conflict?

[Larijani] I fear the term "overall" as much as the term "classified." In my opinion, it is better that no party be overall, and it is better for it not to be classified.

[AKHBAR] Shall we conclude that you do not support an organization?

[Larijani] No it is good to have an organization, but it is better for an organization to grow naturally.

The third political leaning that you referred to is on paper only. Of course, some may also support them, but this does not mean that a party will be born.

In my opinion, it can be projected that these two existing leanings will gradually define themselves more distinctly. In this process of defining themselves, naturally, they will lose some of their supporters and gain new supporters.

[AKHBAR] Apparently there is no agreement inside the Militant Clergy Association regarding its becoming an organization. Apparently, Mr. Mahdavi-Kani opposes such an organization. Will this prepare the grounds for the creation of a split?

[Larijani] This is not what I understand from within the Militant Clergy Association. Mr. Mahdavi-Kani objected to the procedures of creating a party. He said that there must be more growth. We must not be restrictive such that an isolating organization is created. But he is fully supportive of an organization. He is in the field and gives his opinion regarding issues. Concerning the elections too, he should be active, but it would not

have positive effects if we insist excessively on certain affairs before there is appropriate growth.

I find it uncertain that a coalition will be created between the two groups because the spectrum that is under the umbrella of the Militant Clergy Association is a vast spectrum with varied ideas.

[AKHBAR] You said that the Militant Clergy Association is open with regard to foreign policy. What do you mean by that?

[Larijani] I mean that, for example, some believe that we must fight the infidels. This kind of thinking posits that we have no business with governments, and the Islamic Republic only deals with nations. Hence, the basis of our relations with other countries used to be the level of validity of the governments. The belief was that we must only work with liberation movements.

Openness means that we are a member of the international community. For this reason, we must include the rest...

[AKHBAR] Do you mean that in this international community we must submit to regulations?

[Larijani] Absolutely. In other words, in the international community we must behave in a way that is tolerable to others, as others must tolerate us.

We have our own ideas, interests, and goals, and must pursue them, but we must act as a member of the international community and not as a member of a guerrilla group. We are an absolutely legal government on the international level. This premise has its effects. The Militant Clergy Association faction absolutely accepts this premise. In other words, we must have a rational and calculated attitude toward the world.

[AKHBAR] Is this idea governing our foreign policy at the present time?

[Larijani] This idea, on the whole, is the basis of our foreign policy, but if you ask if our foreign policy has succeeded in implementing this idea, the answer is no.

Our foreign policy is a policy that has important weak points.

[AKHBAR] For example?

[Larijani] First, there is a lack of precise understanding of events; second, there is a lack of a comprehensive implemental plan. Lack of a comprehensive plan in the period when the world was bipolar could be tolerated, but in a world in which the bipolar system has disintegrated, the chance to win and the chance to lose are equal. If we do not have a comprehensive plan, our losses will exceed our gains.

Among these shortcomings, lack of precise operational plans can be corrected. We must learn complex tasks. Foreign policy is not like planting fruit, so that we plant it today and get the fruit in three months. We must implement certain undertakings which will yield results in 10 years, rather than getting the results immediately. In other words, as soon as a government does something contrary to our standards, we should not sever all relations with it. Such weaknesses do not suggest faulting the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If the potential of our foreign policy is between zero and 100, today we have demonstrated about 15 or 20 percent of this potential.

[AKHBAR] Is this the same thinking that believes we must change and repair our international image? Also, between idealism and realism, we chose the first and did not benefit from the language of diplomacy.

[Larijani] This is more than idealism. Having an ideal and being faithful to it is different from giving up one's ideal as soon as one encounters a problem. Our international image is not a phenomenon in which only we play a role. Other factors are involved in our international image, such as international factors, but what we also must realize is that we should not think that the people of the world understand our ideals. The people of the world have major problems understanding us. Also, we have problems making ourselves understood to the world. We could have and should have a better image in the world. Thus far, we have said, let others say whatever they will say; we are what we are. We must be sensitive in regards to the image that we want others to have of us, and this is the new thinking. We are a member of the world community and the opinion of others about us is important.

In the structure of our international image, others besides us—for example, the Zionists—have the media, and our enemies are also involved, but our own hands are not tied either. We can work much better than this.

[AKHBAR] Is it possible that sometimes, at least at the level of providing an excuse, we have contributed to those conspiracies against us and the actions of our enemies? Sometimes, lack of a coherent program, for example, in taking positions, places us in a compromising situation.

[Larijani] I do not agree with the idea that everyone should say the same thing. Of course, in the executive organization, all statements must be the same. For example, the Majles must not say the same thing that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says, or the press. In fact, in the Executive Branch, we are unified. Our weakness is in understanding world phenomena.

For example, in Central Asia, what should we understand by country, because still provincial systems are implemented in them? In other words, in this arena, we must understand the phenomena precisely. We have the same weakness in the Persian Gulf region.

[AKHBAR] Even the United States? But relations with the United States is a red flag.

[Larijani] A red flag for the officials. This is the policy of the regime, that we should not accept anything to get closer to the United States. The officials must observe this prohibition, but as an issue for discussion, no one is prohibited from discussing it.

In the very hostile position of the political system of the United States against Iran, we must not show the slightest consideration for establishing relations. I am a staunch opponent of any sort of leniency with regard to the United States. At the same time, I do not accept that our policy must be a policy of tension and hostility. The banner that we are holding is one of mutual understanding, but if someone is hostile to us, we have no reason to show leniency. If the United States wants to show that without friendship with it, Iran cannot survive, it is important to show that we can. If we do not do so, we will allow future generations to commit mistakes. Hence, there is a difference between establishing reasonable relations and submitting to force. In this case, we must implement a more calculated policy and continue it. Relations with the United States is the sensitive policy issue of our regime.

[AKHBAR] What is your personal view in this regard?

[Larijani] As long as the attitude of the United States is one of arrogance, I oppose such relations and do not consider such relations and showing a moderate image in our best interests. We must prove that they must treat us like others in order to entertain the idea of establishing relations.

But the Americans in dealing with us have gone beyond shamelessness. For instance, in the U.S. Congress, they discuss giving money to the CIA to overthrow our regime. This goes even beyond government terrorism. At the present, I oppose this relationship.

We must influence public opinion and even the U.S. politicians. We must make the American people realize that we are right, and also the injustice of the policy of the U.S. Government. In fact, the present decision of the regime regarding relations with the United States is not emotional but rational.

Sometimes, our positions are not technical. We must make these positions technical and complex. In today's

world, anyone who knows how to act in a complex way will be the winner. Sometimes, the objective is a particular thing, but one must start in the opposite direction. In foreign policy, we have chosen wheeling and dealing in place of governing a country with a plan. In other words, we have little patience.

[AKHBAR] What should be the goals in planning foreign policy?

[Larijani] It is not important that we reach all of our foreign policy goals. We must work to become efficient. What is important is [to realize] that our not reaching our goals is due to our not being efficient. Here, we must reform the methods and programs.

I do not mean to criticize those involved in foreign policy. Some of this blame does not belong to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at all because foreign relations are not exclusive to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The weakness is in the coordination of all relations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs has no authority to control our commercial, industrial or cultural relations. As a result, it becomes a Ministry of Ceremonies and not a Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This concerns the structure of the regime. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be able to act well when it can harness the whole foreign policy.

[AKHBAR] In your opinion, is the problem with the structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

[Larijani] No, it has to do with the place of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the whole government, which is very weak, but respected. In other words, it has no implemental status. It has respect, but has no power. Essentially, in the history of our country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has never had power. After the revolution, the administrative structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs truly changed. In this process, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not gain status, and foreign relations did not find a caretaker. Everyone is interested in foreign relations. Hence, an international sector was created in all ministries. In exactly the same way, every ministry has a college as well. In other words, they do not trust the current educational system. They do not listen to each other.

In my opinion, in terms of foreign relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs must be exclusive in the country. Moreover, the final decisions must not be made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This is the job of the Supreme National Security Council, but when a decision is made, all foreign relations must be conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[AKHBAR] Does this lack of coordination not harm our national interests in the world?

[Larijani] The Supreme Council of National Security organized all decisions about foreign relations. This was an important step toward advancement in running the government.

Of course, this is not only in regards to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The same problem also exists in the higher education system. The authority of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution either concerns the Majles or the Ministry of Sciences and Higher Education. Hence, we witness different and newly found shops because the best investment and supervision has not been possible.

In my opinion, these points of weakness are not dead ends but are proper points to work on.

[AKHBAR] You made certain points regarding our organization and parallel authorities. Does this not indicate lack of coherence in decisions and implementation?

[Larijani] Regarding the general foreign policy decisions, I say that there is coherence. In decisions also, we have good coordination. In both cases, the Supreme National Security Council is involved.

In general management, we have inherent and institutional incoherence. To solve the problem, we have been forced to create a parallel organization or agency. This was supposed to be temporary, but it has stayed in place. In the meantime, the power of the Cabinet has also diminished. Serious decisions must be made in the Cabinet, and in implementation it must be at the highest level. These secondary organizations have reduced the power of the Cabinet.

In my opinion, in terms of general management, in the whole executive system of the country, we do not need more than 14 or 15 ministries. In the same way, in my opinion, the executive body of the country must be downsized to one-third. In that case, all important decisions must be made in the Cabinet. In the Fourth Majles we witnessed that the government had made a collective decision regarding a bill, but the minister came and spoke against the decision in the Majles.

All this goes back to the structure of governing, and in my opinion this structure must be corrected.

[AKHBAR] Such incoherence has effects that are harmful to the people. Do citizens' rights not require the government to feel responsible vis-a-vis such damage?

[Larijani] Even though governing in our country is incoherent, it concentrates our goals and projects. As a result, a sort of operational coherence is created. For example, at one time, it was decided that in

training graduates, we should reach mass production. This project was implemented successfully in medicine and other fields, but the scientific progress of the country is not dependent on the mass production of graduates. Another phase is to form the sectors that effect growth. This means an effort toward the quality of higher education, that is, special talents will grow and progress. Hence, efforts are made in research and study.

[AKHBAR] But that mass of graduates now has new needs and expectations, which they expect to be fulfilled. Will this expectation not create tension?

[Larijani] Two tendencies are in conflict in higher education. Our thinking about science is romantic and mystical. Mass production is a response to this tendency. At the same time, scientific development is a part of national development, in other words, a government investment. These two tendencies are in conflict, and the job market is not limited to those with bachelors degrees. It is a mistake to think that the government must guarantee government jobs. The meaning of a job is not only a government job. Government employment policies should not mean the growth of the government, and the government job-generating programs should not mean the growth of the government body. We must implement job generation in the true sense of the word. The government must certainly become small. We can work well with one-third the number of present government employees. In other words, the current budget should remain the same and the salary of the government employees consist of the same total. The employees should work well and get good salaries and gain desirable social status. Today, a government employee is more helpless than anyone else, because of the large number of them. We should have a true job-generating program.

Mass production of graduates was not a bad idea in one period. Employment for them has to do with the economic system of the country. We must give status to work. University graduates may get work with little value. In my opinion, we must allow mass production in non-government universities, but in the government universities, they must work on quality, to train competent graduates. We must not divide the government resources equally among all universities. It is not very bad to cut the budget of 10 higher education centers by half and increase the budget of five other centers by 10 times. The boards of trustees must be able to work.

[AKHBAR] They have named the Larijani brothers the cultural brothers. For this reason, these questions regard culture. What is the place of culture? It is said that the

right faction is strict in regards to culture. What is the reason?

[Larijani] First, I am not the spokesman for the Militant Clergy Association. I am stating my views. The right faction in principle believes that the Islamic regime is a special regime. Also, religious guardianship dictates an important structure in the government. Regarding the method of action of the regime, it accepts the Constitution. In economy, too, it emphasizes the private sector. In other words, it says that the government must have a small role. In cultural issues, it emphasizes Islamic culture and the traditional Islamic structures. This is not necessarily contrary to modernism. The disintegration of social structures is a threat throughout the world, even the Western societies have become sensitive to this issue. This situation makes it appear that the right faction is culturally traditional. If being traditional and traditionalism are not excessive (that is, they leave room for the new), there is no problem.

For instance, regarding the satellite antennas, it might have been thought that the Fourth Majles does not want the people to have access to information or is afraid of information. In the Center for Research, we made a study, but this law was not explained well to the people, even for other people in the world. The primary message is that information is necessary, but we must be concerned about information pollution. The more sensitive we are to this kind of pollution, the better we can use the information.

Information is a great gift, especially for scientific use and economic progress. The presentation of information is a complex task. We chose a simple part of it, which is its prevention. In other words, the creation of restrictions was a simple task among complex tasks. A list can be provided in this regard.

The law was not bad. Now, even if some people make use of those antennas, it does not prove that the law was bad. This prohibition has occurred in other countries, even recently in France.

So first, sensitivity regarding information pollution is global. Second, fighting this phenomenon is complex. The goal of restriction must be to create sensitivity, but it is not the solution. Now, we must be prepared for further progress in our life, and that regards the vast use of information and access to it, like the informational highways. Our picture of the future society must be a picture in which the possibility to access information exists.

[AKHBAR] But classified and controlled?

[Larijani] We make policies regarding environmental pollution, but the results are not immediate. It is the

same with regard to informational pollution, but more simple. We must not offer global solutions. We must plan so that the necessary information is prepared on a widespread basis for environments that need it, but within a framework that is respected by the society. In other words, we must do something to avoid unauthorized uses. In the first phase, information must be made available in, for instance, universities and libraries. We must control misuse and immoral use. We must provide those who need it with information in a selective and non-factional manner, but we must also tolerate some of the possible harms.

[AKHBAR] In any case, we only give advice to the young. However, these restrictions may have reactions as well.

[Larijani] Regarding the young generation, the issue is more complex. We expect obedience from children. Usually, no attention is paid to the individuality of young people. Individual enjoyment must not be suppressed. Two experiences have failed: first, telling the young people to avoid; and second, suppression, which takes enthusiasm away from the young. We must look at the young people with interest, even those who have unusual appearance and clothing. They display such behavior to show their individuality. The other view is to give widespread freedom, which is also condemned.

We must accept the third way.

[AKHBAR] Which way?

[Larijani] Temporary marriage is one solution. Even immediate solutions can be accepted. This is one of the phenomena of the society. It has nothing to do with Islam. All scholars and imams have accepted it, but our culture rejects it.

We still think that marriage is a romantic relationship. Forget about love, let us live together rationally. The Organization for Reasonable Living projects a proper solution. I like these small decisive solutions that do not consider sexuality to be irrational.

The West has lost the pleasure of living. The structure of the family has been weakened in the West. On the course of finding a third solution, we must implement occasional prescriptions. This awareness must be created.

[AKHBAR] We thank you for giving AKHBAR the opportunity for this interview.

[Larijani] And I thank you.

Iran: Commentary on High Cost of Potatoes, Eggs
96LA0111D *Tehran SALAM in Persian* 24 Dec 95
p 2

[Commentary by Naqi Aqalu]

[FBIS Translated Text] Finally, after months and years of fighting price hiking, in connection with the economic modification policy, potatoes and eggs, which are both among the daily necessities of the people, won the competition over their rivals, and the latest news from the general food market indicates that potatoes were sold at between 130 tumans and 150 tumans per kg and eggs at 20 tumans each.

Hence, the potato, which at one time was envious of the price of its cousin (apples) and passed by in embarrassment, can now puff its chest and feel proud and happy.

As for the egg, apparently the increase in its price is due to a nationwide strike by hens, which, with the increase in the price of their meat from 200 tumans to 500 tumans within less than two years, demanded the increase in the price of their eggs in order for the people to know their value and for their products not to be sold like the products of some of the factories, at a very low price.

For now, we will ignore the question of how potatoes produced by villagers that were sold at 50 tumans to 60 tumans per kg this year have now, within less than one or two months, reached 130-150 tumans and what factors and networks have been involved in this counterrevolutionary and anti-people action.

Iran: Authorization Issued for 6 Publications
96LA0111C *Tehran SALAM in Persian* 19 Dec 95
p 2

[Report on interview with 'Ali Akbar Ash'ari, press deputy of the Ministry of Islamic Culture and Guidance, by unidentified IRNA correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Publication authorization for six new publications was ratified in the recent meeting of the Supervisory Board for the Press.**

'Ali Akbar Ash'ari, the press deputy of the Ministry of [Islamic Culture and] Guidance, said in an interview with IRNA: DARICHEH, under the ownership and management of Lotfollah Ajdani, and RUYDAD, under the ownership of Zanjan University and the management of Seyyed Hashem Musavi, at the international level, were given publication permits.

He continued: The monthly KARMAND, under the ownership of the National Administrative and Em-

ployment Affairs Organization and the management of Seyyed Mohammad Bashtani, and ARMAGHAN, under the ownership and management of Mas'ud Karimpur-Natanzi, will be published throughout the country.

Ash'ari added: HOMA, under the ownership of the Islamic Republic Airlines Company and the management of Sa'id Razeqi, at the international level, and the weekly, TOIU, under the ownership and management of Mohammad Mehdi Ja'farzadeh, were given permission to be published on the international level and in the provinces of Fars, Bushehr, and Kohkiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad.

The spokesman of the Supervisory Board for the Press continued: In the last meeting of the Supervisory Board, the changes in the names of QAMUS-E FIRUZABAD to QAMUS and AFZAYESH-E RAVESH-E EJTEMA'I to TABIAN were agreed.

Iran: Commentary on 'Plague' of Inflation
96LA0111B *Tehran SALAM in Persian* 11 Dec 95
pp 2-3

[Commentary by 'Abbas 'Abdi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last week, a note was written entitled "Political Evasion," which can be summarized in a few sentences as follows: "The responsibility for the destructive inflation at the present is on the shoulders of the Majles and the government, and the course of this responsibility (meaning the Majles) is to follow the power of the supervisor (meaning the government), because the reason for the inflation is the budget, which is implemented with the ratification of the Majles, even though it is suggested by the government. Hence, the responsibility for the existing inflation rests mainly on the shoulders of the Majles and naturally the majority faction."

It would seem that making the above-mentioned obvious statement should not cause displeasure or so upset friends that they step beyond the bounds of decent behavior. Nevertheless, it is necessary to give some explanations regarding the causes and effects of very high inflation, and naturally those who are responsible for this great error should repeat before God their shame at what they have left for the nation as a result of their actions. Also, they should not be upset and angry when they hear just words because as the commercial of the faithful said, a person who has difficulty hearing what is just would have much more difficulty acting on what is just.

One of the repeated refrains in explaining the reason for the present inflation is the enmity of the foreigners and the agents of imperialism and Zionism. The truth

is that this cliché not only does not serve the society in countering the foreigners seeking domination, but ultimately makes the people passive and undetermined towards them, because naturally, as long as a nation intends to display its independent and natural will, it will be the target of the unkindness and enmity of the domination-seeking powers. If this unkindness and enmity is always presented as the main cause of all internal problems, the result is that the people will consider their independence and national will to be synonymous with the problems to be everlasting, and after a while, the opportunists will consider the solution to the problems of the society as dependent on compromise and will suggest compromise (in the sense of accepting domination) with foreigners and foreign powers. We can say decisively that one of the reasons that recognized individuals (from the right faction) suggested calming down before the United States is this false supposition and concept that all of our problems are due to the hostility of the Westerners and the United States, whereas only a part of our problems is related to this issue, and another part is due to our own wrong actions. In fact, independence and the expression of indomitable will by the nation must also display the interests of many inside the country. Naturally, these interests neutralize the ill effects of the enemies, as was so in the first 10 years of the revolution.

To explain further, it must be said that if we consider the present inflation to be due to the hostility of the Westerners, including the United States, in this case, we would probably have to say that certainly between 1359 and 1367 [21 March 1980-20 March 1989], there was no war, no hostility by the West, no attack on the air bus, no attack on the oil platforms, and no economic embargo. In fact, there was cooperation with the West, purchases of oil, and several billion dollar economic relations with the United States! We would have to say that the production and sale of oil at that time was certainly at its highest level; all the refineries were working; the provinces of Khuzestan, Kermanshah, Ilam, and Kurdistan were all involved in production; the Armed Forces did not have much in the way of expenditures; and the ministries were spending all their resources and management on production (and not the war)...whereas, today, the cities are being bombarded by missiles, the factories are being bombarded, oil tanks are being exploded, the production of oil has reached a low point in terms of amount and price, most of the resources of the ministries are being spent on the war, each with a defense and war deputy, hundreds of thousands are on the fronts, and the United States warships are launching attacks in the Persian Gulf every day...

Only under such conditions can the reason for the high inflation of 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] and 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] as opposed to the inflation in the past years be blamed on foreign factors. However, conditions are quite the reverse, and not even a trivial part of the practical invasion of the borders of the country of that time exists under the present conditions. Hence, we must seek another reason for the spread of the plague of inflation.

The main reason for inflation is the creation of a single foreign currency rate by the Fourth Majles in the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] budget bill. On the whole, in the First Plan bill, there was absolutely no reference made to the creation of a single foreign currency. Rather, it was implicitly understood that, essentially, the content of the bill opposes this policy, because if it were not so, the expenditures and revenues had to be revised. When the government in 1372 faced the problem of revenues, it came up with a solution, and on that basis and under the heading of revolution and a pivotal point in the national economy, eliminated the budget deficit in the sense that it increased its revenues drastically, but only by changing the price of the foreign currency. For instance, if in the previous years it had \$100 in foreign currency revenues, the Central Bank paid about 700 tumans to the government to spend, and with the various kinds of foreign currency available in the country at the time, at most 6,000 tumans [as published] was given to the government. But with the creation of the single foreign currency rate, suddenly the price of the dollar increased by 20 times, and the government revenues also in terms of the rial equivalence of foreign currency on the average increased by 2.5 times. Government expenditures, however, followed a different path, and in the area of wages, that increase was not seen at this level. Naturally, severe pressure was placed on the salary earners.

At that time, some publicized that the ill effects of this surgery is only one time and will end, whereas we said and wrote that it is not so because this action was not undertaken with the goal of surgery and a one-time modification of the price of foreign currency, but with the goal of making up for the budget deficit; that, in fact, there is no balance between government revenues and expenditures, and this lack of balance places much pressure on revenues through decreasing the actual and practical value of foreign currency in order to reduce the government expenditures (at the fixed price), a part of which is wages and salaries; and that this false cycle will continue with more severe escalation of inflation. We saw that it happened.

Hence, it is clear that the officials of the Fourth Majles and its right faction majority are undeniably the main cause of the spread of the present plague of inflation. This inflation has no connection with economic growth, investment, etc., particularly since neither is the situation very suitable for investment nor is the economic growth such that it can justify an inflation of 50 percent.

Here a point must be made, which is that those who have been angered by hearing these statements present the main cause of inflation as foreign debt, of which they blame the Third Majles as the cause, since it allowed government borrowing. Here, it must be explained that independent of whether borrowing was right or wrong, there is only a verbal point in common between what the Third Majles ratified and what was carried out. The Third Majles ratified certain amounts in the form of buy-backs for the implementation of large national projects (less than \$30 billion), of which amount, the government was unable to secure even one-third, and what was carried out (even though meager) is spent on projects of which the supporters of the First Plan are proud. These loans are not very inflationary, and we do not think that even their due dates have arrived. On the other hand, what was carried out consisted of short-term usance (one year and six months, which later become two years, and recently one hears that five-year ones are on the way), which first have high interest and second were used for the import of goods, the profits of which primarily went into the pockets of the importing gentlemen—that is, the right faction—and domestically were consumed mostly by the affluent classes (again generally the same people). Concerning what was spent on production for exports, the exports also went to the gentlemen. Hence, they fed simultaneously from various sources of one policy. This borrowing has no relationship with the ratification of the Third Majles.

Nevertheless, there is no problem. If the gentlemen in the right faction and the majority in the Majles do not consider themselves to be the cause and spreader of the plague of inflation, let them announce it, and while condemning any policy that has resulted in inflation, they should present those directly responsible for it. Otherwise, it is clear that at the dawn of the elections, they intend to engage in political evasion (of the respectful kind). Also, we would like to say that if they have nightmares as a result of what SALAM has published now, they had better get used to it because during the elections they might not even be able to sleep after a box of Valium.

Iran: Health Minister on Number of AIDS-Related Deaths

96LA0111A Tehran SALAM in Persian 3 Dec 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, IRNA—The minister of health, treatment and medical education said: So far, 316 cases of infection by the AIDS virus have been reported throughout the country, of which 118 have contracted the AIDS disease.

Dr. 'Ali Reza Marandi, who was speaking in the ceremonies for World AIDS Day at the Tehran Medical Sciences University, added: Of 118 persons with AIDS, which includes 107 men and the remainder women, 100 have so far died.

The minister of health emphasized the necessity of observing piety and chastity, timely marriage, and observing planned parenthood and asked all physicians, paramedics, and clerics to give the necessary awareness to the people.

Dr. Marandi said: During surgery, dialysis, dentistry, and on the whole all arenas that somehow potentially create scratches and cuts in the body, precaution against AIDS and hepatitis must be taken.

He also appealed for examination of the situation of beauty salons in regards to observing health standards and said: If the slightest carelessness occurs in such places, not only AIDS but many other diseases can be transmitted easily and on a widespread basis.

Dr. Hoseyn Malekafzali, the deputy for health affairs of the Ministry of Health, in another part of these ceremonies mentioned the four principles of the policy of this ministry for the prevention of AIDS as the recommendation to get married in a timely way, observance of piety, planned parenthood, and being faithful. He expressed hope: We have the duty and the people also have the right to know the ways for the transmission of the disease and its prevention. Hence, we must provide the people with the necessary information in various ways.

The deputy for health affairs of the Ministry of Health asked the media, especially the Voice and Vision, to educate the people even more than ever before.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Indian Forces Fire at Border Without Provocation

BK2702033696 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman has said that the Indian Border Security Force fired without any provocation at Pakistan Rangers' posts

with machine guns at the working boundary [preceding two words in English] in the Sialkot region yesterday morning. The shooting began at 0930 in the morning, and continued for an hour during which the Indians tried to violate the working boundary. The Indians again resorted to unprovoked shooting at the same site at 1910 which lasted half an hour. The spokesman said that Major General Alfanzo, head of United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan, visited the working boundary in the Sialkot region and inspected the Indian troops violation of the working boundary.

Pakistan: Uzbek Adviser—CIA Plans To Create 4 'New Countries'

BK2702102096 Karachi AMN in Urdu 10 Feb 96 pp 1,7

[FBIS Translated Text] Peshawar, 9 February — Fedotiov [name as transliterated], adviser to the Uzbek foreign minister, has asked Pakistan to play its role in meeting the new economic and political challenges facing the region. Speaking on the subject of "the Prospects of Economic Cooperation Between Central Asia and Pakistan" at the Area Study Center here, he suggested the formation of a confederation comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan. He added however that unless the Afghan problem is resolved, any progress in the economic and political cooperation between Central Asia and other countries is not possible. He said Pakistan, which is trying to help resolve the Afghan tangle, should not favor any one Afghan group, because this will not only lead to the division of Afghanistan on ethnic grounds but also create similar problems in other countries of the region. He said Pakistan, Iran, and Russia are providing arms to their favorite groups involved in the Afghan war. If this arms supply is stopped, the Afghan war will come to an end automatically.

The Uzbek adviser disclosed that the U.S.' CIA has planned to create four new countries — Kashmir, Balochistan, Badakhshan, and Sheshtan — to end Iran's influence in the region.

Pakistan: Envoy Advises India Not To Aspire to UNSC Post

BK2702042896 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Feb 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At the United Nations, Pakistan has proposed that countries that violate established norms of peaceful coexistence and demonstrate hegemonic designs against their neighbors should not aspire to become permanent members of the Security Council [UNSC]. This was said by Pakistani Ambassador Ahmad Kamal while commenting on the General Assembly working group's efforts to reform the

Security Council. He was making an obvious reference to India, which constantly violates the Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, wages aggression against its neighbors, incites insurgencies, and has usurped Sikkim, Hyderabad and Junagadh. Ahmad Kamal said that the working group should work to expand the nonpermanent category of council members if there is no agreement on other categories of membership.

Pakistan: Law Minister Says 'Backbone of Terrorists' Broken by Raid

BK2602163096 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarjani Town police in Karachi today recovered arms and ammunition which were hidden underground at an Afghan refugee camp on the Super Highway. The cache was brought in to start a new wave of terrorism in the city, police said. According to police, the SSP [senior superintendent of police], West, had received a tip that terrorists of Altaf Group, who had gone underground to escape arrest, were accumulating arms and ammunition in different suburbs of the city for distribution among activists for the purpose of carrying out subversive and terrorist activities. On this information, a raid was conducted at secret hideouts, which resulted in the recovery of four rocket launchers, 27 fuses, 28 rockets, besides over 2,000 rounds of light machine gun.

Federal Law Minister Professor N.D. Khan has thanked the people of Karachi for the support extended by them to the authorities in unearthing and capturing huge arms and ammunition from terrorists. In a statement in Islamabad, he said the backbone of the terrorists has been broken, and Karachi is witnessing restoration of peace and order.

Pakistan: Islamabad Rejects Indian Charge of Supporting 'Terrorism'

BK2602144796 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government of Pakistan has categorically rejected the accusation about the alleged support of terrorism by Pakistan in India. A government spokesman in Islamabad, referring to the Indian Government protest, has expressed its concern at the attempt of Indian authorities to continue to try to implicate Pakistan while, at the same time, maintaining abetment of terrorism in Pakistan. He said the fact of the matter is that Pakistan has irrefutable evidence of Indian interference in its internal affairs, including financing and support of terrorism. The spokesman, while rejecting duplicitous Indian stance, urged the Government of In-

dia to refrain from vitiating the atmosphere by leveling false allegations against Pakistan.

Pakistan: Experts Finalize Technical Details for Supply of Mirage

BK2602102396 Islamabad *THE MUSLIM in English*
26 Feb 96 p 12

[PPI report: "Supply of Mirage Being Finalized"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Feb 25 — The expert level discussions between Pakistan and France are continuing to finalise technical details including the price for supply of French Mirage-2000-5 fighter aircraft to Pakistan Air Force [PAF].

Diplomatic sources told PPI here Sunday that France had already cleared sale of the aircraft to Pakistan without coming into pressure from any country.

The sources categorically denied the orchestrated campaign that "France may not supply the aircraft especially after reports regarding alleged supply of ring magnets to Pakistan by China" and said there was nothing of the sort.

"Both the countries are currently discussing technical details", the sources said, and added that there were lot of technicalities involved in the sale of aircraft. "We have to look into the price of the aircraft and its capabilities also before signing a deal", they said.

France had agreed to supply Mirage-2000-5 aircraft to Pakistan during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to Paris last year. The Government of Pakistan had decided to go for the French aircraft to fill in the vacuum created as a result of the nondelivery of 60 multi-role F-16 aircraft to the PAF by United States under the Pressler Amendment.

Pakistan: Officials 'Exerting Pressure' on 'Terrorists' To Halt Activity

BK2602100396 Islamabad *THE NATION in English*
26 Feb 96 pp 1, 13

[PPI report: "Pressure on 'Terrorists' To Continue"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Law and order and political situation was discussed at a meeting of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] top brass which was presided over by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto here at the prime minister's house on Sunday.

Sources said here that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expressed her satisfaction over the overall law and order situation in the country with particular reference to Karachi.

The life has returned to normalcy in Karachi city due to the stringent steps taken by the local administration under the supervision of the Interior Minister Naserullah Khan Baber, the prime minister observed.

The sources said that the interior minister briefed the participants of the meeting about the ways and means adopted for the elimination of wave of terrorism which had shattered the peace and tranquillity of the city and left the masses in utter distress.

The meeting was attended by PML(Q) [Pakistan Muslim League (Qasim)] President Malik Mohammad Qasim, Federal Information Minister Khalid Ahmed Khan Kharal, PPP Punjab President Malik Mushtaq Awan, Interior Minister Maj Gen (Retd) Naserullah Khan Babar, Federal Minister for Special Education, Dr Sher Afghan, Minister of State for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Raza Rabbani and Senator Iqbal Haider.

It was decided in the meeting to continue exerting pressure on the terrorists to force them to stop their activities or be ready to face the dire consequences.

Besides, the meeting discussed at length the political situation of the country and chalked out a strategy to detail with the PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)] led Opposition's launching of fresh agitation against the government forcing her to quit and announce midterm polls.

The meeting expressed determination that the Opposition will not be allowed to adopt undemocratic and unconstitutional means against the government and any such move will be curbed forcefully.

Pakistan: Japanese Mission To Discuss Economic Aid in Islamabad

CW2502131696 Tokyo *KYODO in English*
1254 GMT 25 Feb 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad Feb. 25 KYODO — An 18-member Japanese economic mission is scheduled to arrive here Monday [26 February] for policy dialogue with government officials on Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Pakistan, a Japanese Embassy official said Sunday.

Hiroto Hirokoba told reporters at a briefing that the main purpose of the visit is to exchange views with Pakistan Government officials on priority areas for Japanese ODA in coming years.

The mission, which will stay in Pakistan for a week, is to be led by Shinichi Yanai, special assistant to Japan's foreign minister. Yanai also served in Pakistan during the Soviet occupation of neighboring Afghanistan.

Hirokoba told reporters that Pakistan's nuclear program and the missile race on the Indian subcontinent may also come up for discussion, as the two subjects relate to guidelines governing Japanese ODA.

Pakistan: Over 100 MQM Activists Arrested in Karachi Area

*BK2502113896 Islamabad THE NATION in English
25 Feb 96 pp 1, 12*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — More than 100 MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] activists, mostly were wanted by police and other law-enforcing agencies were arrested when different teams of police and law-enforcement agencies raided North Karachi, Kharadar, Korangi, Gulbahar, Azizabad and other parts of the city late Friday night.

Official sources claimed recovery of arms from those who have been nabbed in Azizabad and Korangi.

The investigations teams of law-enforcing agencies reportedly cordoned off the area near Masjid-e-Us-man, Sector 11-A, North Karachi and raided several houses in search of "terrorists".

According to reports, received from the area, over 80 workers were held there. However, they were not the active MQM members.

About 25 workers were arrested from Kharadar when Rahim Bhai flats were raided. They were hiding here for the last four days, reports said.

Those who were rounded up in Kharadar revealed the hideouts of other activists which led to the arrest of other members, said a police source.

Though the names of arrested persons were not disclosed, yet some of them were identified by their relatives as Subhan, Ayaz, Ali, Zulfiqar, Anees, Shafeeq, Farooq, Suleman, Khaleeq, Akhlaq, Zaheer Mukhtar, Sattar, Ifukhar, Mateen, Nisar, Tariq, Hameed, Majeed, Zuberi, Younus, Ahmed Hassan, Amber, Waris, Islam, Naseem, Alam, Syed Ali, Amir, Jaffer, Arif, Bhatti, Aziz, Ahmed Shareef, etc.

About one dozen persons were held in Korangi 33 C and E areas. Police claimed to have arrested Noor Muhammad and Sohail Noman with two loaded TT pistols after a brief exchange of firing in Nasir Colony. Two other accomplices, however, managed to escape.

In Azizabad, Muhammad Ashfaq and Jameel Ahmed were arrested along with one KK rifle and a TT pistol, reports said.

Pakistan: Federal Cabinet Approves Report on Electoral Reforms

*BK2602151596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1400 GMT 26 Feb 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal cabinet in Islamabad today approved a report of Electoral Reforms Committee, which recommends the changing of the electoral system to make it more transparent, eliminate chances of rigging, reduce the election expenses, and improve and modernize the entire system to suit the requirements of latest technology. Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto presided. The recommendations of the committee envisage dispensing with the requirements of production of national identity cards for polling votes.

Briefing newsmen in Islamabad this evening, the information minister, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, said the cabinet also decided that the elections to the national and provincial assemblies will be held on the same day and at the same time. The simultaneous polls would help in the maintenance of law and order and avoiding unnecessary expenditure. For holding polls for national and provincial assemblies the same day, ballot boxes of different colors would be used. It was further decided to use transparent ballot boxes in future general elections so as to guard against their pre-poll stuffing. The cabinet decided that the minorities should also cast votes in elections for general seats. This will be in addition to their right to vote in elections for their reserve seats.

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Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

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